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The spark that turned fatal in Mundathikode

A fireworks unit blast raises safety concerns

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EMPHATIC WIN

Kohli and Padikkal power RCB past GT

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New internal quota matrix gets Cabinet approval

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bringing hope of an end to the controversy around internal reservation for the 101 Scheduled Castes, the Cabinet on Friday approved a quota matrix with a revised formula of 5.25%: 5.25%: 4.5%, for three categories.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called it a "historic decision" that ends the four-decade-long struggle for internal reservation in Karnataka. In the post-Cabinet briefing, he said the decision was taken unanimously based on the report by a technical committee headed by the Chief Secretary.

He also promised that the recruitment process for 56,432 posts would be taken up immediately.

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Israel-Lebanon ceasefire extended by three weeks

Donald Trump says U.S. will help Lebanon protect itself from Hezbollah after talks; a Hezbollah lawmaker cites continued Israeli 'assassinations, shelling and gunfire' and vows to confront them

Stanly Johny

Israel and Lebanon have extended their fragile ceasefire by three weeks, U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Friday after meeting representatives from both countries in Washington.

"The Meeting went very well! The U.S. is going to work with Lebanon in order to help it protect itself from Hezbollah. The Ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon will be extended by three weeks," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post.

Vice-President J.D. Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee and Ambassador to Lebanon Michel Issa were present at the meeting in the Oval Office.

War zone: An Israeli armoured vehicle seen inside Lebanon as the ceasefire was extended on Friday. REUTERS

The latest round of war between Israel and Hezbollah, a Lebanese Shia militant group and political party, broke out on March 2, three days after the U.S. and Israel launched strikes on Iran, killing Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. When Mr. Trump announced the U.S.-Iran ceasefire on April 8, Tehran said Lebanon was part of the agreement. Israel initially rejected this claim but agreed to a 10-day ceasefire in Lebanon last week. Mr. Trump then said Israel was "prohibited" from bombing Lebanon any longer. However, limited Israeli attacks continued in Lebanon.

"I look forward to hosting the Prime Minister of Israel, Bibi Netanyahu, and the President of Lebanon, Joseph Aoun, in the near future," Mr. Trump said on Friday.

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Iran FM Araghchi travelling to Pak. for ceasefire talks

ISLAMABAD

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi heads to Pakistan as officials push the U.S. and Iran to convene a second round of ceasefire talks. His trip covers Oman and Russia, focusing on bilateral matters and regional developments. » PAGE 18

Three killed as Kuki-Naga conflict rages in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The ongoing conflict between the Kuki and Naga communities in Manipur escalated on Friday, leaving three people dead and several others injured.

Two of those killed in the State's Ukhrul district were Kukis, while the third was a Tangkhul Naga. Tangkhuls are the dominant community in the district.

Organisations of the two communities accused each other of attacking first. The Kuki Organisation for Human Rights (KOHUR) claimed armed Tangkhul Naga men attacked Mullam and Shongphal Kuki villages at 5.30 a.m. when "unarmed civilians were asleep in their homes". Condemning the attack, the organisation said the assailants fatally shot two Kuki "village volunteers". It said several others, including women and children, were injured, and more than a dozen houses were torched.

Mounting tension: Security personnel patrol the Kanglatongbi area in Imphal West district of Manipur on Thursday. PTI

The deceased were identified as 43-year-old Letlal and 19-year-old Paominlun Haolai. "The villagers, exercising their lawful right to self-defence with licensed hunting arms, repulsed the attack and neutralised one of the armed assailants in the process," the KOHUR said.

The Naga Village Guard (NVG), Central Command, trashed the KOHUR claim and said armed Kuki extremists opened fire at some of its members on patrol duty between Sirakhong and Sinakeithei villages.

In a statement, the NVG said Naga villagers have been patrolling their villages because of "repeated attacks on Sinakeithei village and reports of constant tactical movement in the peripheries by the Kuki armed cadres under the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Evolution or DNA rewriting: where is F1's new era headed?

Regulation changes are constant in F1, compelling drivers to frequently tweak their technique. This time, though, the overhaul forced through is drastic, challenging the very ethos of racing. What was considered elite driving is now punished and mistakes are rewarded. This raises a philosophical question: can the sport remain itself if its core element transforms substantially?

S. Dipak Ragav

One of the fascinating aspects of following elite athletes is seeing how they reinvent themselves throughout their careers. In sport, standing still is akin to going backwards.

The way a sport is played keeps changing, too. What worked once could quickly feel outdated. In cricket, the advent of the shorter formats began to reward risk-taking among batters and bowlers had to develop counters. Tennis evolved from the elegant, quick serve-and-volley style to long, power-packed baseline rallies, thanks to changes in racquet and string technology, slowing of surfaces and advances in athletic development.

Forced reskilling

Formula One is no exception. The new hybrid Power Unit regulations introduced this year, mandating that 50% of the energy come from the electric component, have forced drivers to drastically alter their well-honed styles, first shaped in their karting days.

F1 and motorsport involve more frequent changes to regulations than most other sports. Drivers are constantly compelled to tweak their technique to get on top of their car's new behaviour. This time, though, the changes forced through are so severe that they raise a philosophical question. It's a question some have asked of cricket and tennis, too, but it's especially germane to F1 this season: can a sport remain itself if its core element transforms substantially?

> Do we want to be faithful to the DNA of racing? Do we accept that this counter - intuitive situation [mistakes being rewarded] is part of the business or not?
>
> **ANDREA STELLA**
> McLaren team principal

The prerequisite for becoming one of the 22 elite drivers who get to drive the fastest machines in the world is bravery. It is about keeping your right foot planted on the throttle for that extra second longer around a corner than you believe the physics of the car can handle or braking a metre later than where you need to.

Most modern-day F1 drivers start training at the ages of seven or eight in karts, practising this driving style as they climb the rungs. However, the new regulations have completely flipped that on its head. The ambitious move towards electrification has left cars energy-starved. This has had a huge impact on how drivers drive, especially when cornering.

In F1's new era, going quickly through a fast corner seems to hurt lap-time! The logic behind it is that the energy spent taking a corner flat out punishes you later in the lap, down the straight, where you need maximum power at all times.

This has meant the driver now goes off-throttle around fast corners, lifting and coasting to save battery energy that can be deployed elsewhere. It, in a way, diminishes the wow factor of driving, and even hurts drivers who are quick around fast corners, taking away a key weapon. Many drivers, from Max Verstappen to Sergio Perez, have spoken out vehemently against the rules, saying the cars are not fun to drive.

This is often more pronounced during qualifying, when drivers are hardwired to give it full beans for a lap, leaving no inches on the table.

Charles Leclerc is widely considered one of the absolute best on the grid alongside Verstappen. He could even claim to be slightly faster in qualifying trim. His ability to take risks and still balance the car has resulted in 27 pole positions, as against eight wins. It indicates how he often outperforms the car over one lap, extracting more from it than what it is capable of on race day.

But at the Japanese GP, the Ferrari driver was not too pleased when he lost time on the straights because of a lack of deployment. "I honestly cannot stand these rules in qualifying. I go faster in corners, I go on throttle earlier, I lose everything in the straight," said Leclerc.

The bigger issue is that the electric power deployment is largely out of the driver's hands. It means that every time there is a mistake, the system goes for a toss, as a single snap can consume more energy and cost drivers further down the line. But at the same time, it is not consistent, as it can be both rewarding and punishing, depending on where it happens.

Leclerc explained that his high-risk approach, which paid off in the past, is hurting him.

Paying the price

"Q3 [is] where you want to try things you've never tried before, taking risks that you've never taken before, and that's been rewarding. Now this is not possible anymore.

"Every time you go a little bit over the limit, you have a bit of a snap, this is costing energy, and then you pay the price more. I feel at the moment consistency is paying off more than being brave, which makes qualifying a little bit less challenging," he said.

At the same time, it can also reward drivers for making mistakes, as McLaren team principal Andrea Stella explained recently.

"Occasionally, there are comments from our drivers that once they make a mistake, it actually saves some energy; therefore, you go faster overall in a sector because the energy you saved with the delay in the throttle because you had a problem is going to reward you at the end of the straight."

> Q3 [is] where you want to try things you've never tried before, taking risks that you've never taken before. And now this is not possible anymore
>
> **CHARLES LECLERC**

Stella then went on to explain the crux of the debate: whether such mistakes should even be rewarded in the first place, as it goes against the ethos of racing.

"Obviously, this goes much more as to...do we want to be faithful to the DNA of racing in a traditional sense? Do we accept that this counterintuitive situation is part of the business or not? I think this is more of a high-level philosophical question. I think fans are a part of this in finding the answer, but, above all, the drivers are a part of this in finding the answer," he remarked.

So, do these new, excessive demands on drivers fundamentally alter what the sport actually is? F1 has always been about the fastest single-seater cars driven by the best drivers on the planet, trying to be on the money all the time.

Granted, in the past, drivers have had to adapt to limitations, be they tyre-related or fuel-related. However, those were still in the explicit control of the drivers themselves; there was an element of skill involved. Jenson Button or Perez might not have been the quickest outright, but could produce results in races with high tyre degradation through their smooth, economical driving styles.

F1's latest iteration, though, is stretching the limits of adding new skills to one's repertoire.

The level of the problem

When Lando Norris says that he didn't want to overtake Lewis Hamilton during the Japanese GP, but did so because his battery deployed power when he didn't want it – and left him a sitting duck a few corners later – it shows the level of the problem.

It will be interesting to see how the powers that be react to the unintended consequences of the new rules. There have already been some changes announced ahead of the Miami GP to improve things, especially in qualifying. Moving with the times is important, but it must be tempered so that the sport's soul remains sacrosanct.

GETTY IMAGES

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	24	13,350	20
2	Carlos Alcaraz	22	12,960	18
3	Alexander Zverev	28	5,255	22
4	Novak Djokovic	38	4,710	17
5	Felix Auger-Aliassime	25	4,100	25
6	Ben Shelton	23	4,070	22
7	Taylor Fritz	28	3,870	23
8	Alex de Minaur	27	3,845	22
9	Lorenzo Musetti	24	3,715	23
10	Daniil Medvedev	30	3,560	24
11	Alexander Bublik	28	3,445	26
12	Andrey Rublev	28	2,630	24
13	Flavio Cobolli	23	2,600	28
14	Jiri Lehecka	24	2,540	22
15	Casper Ruud	27	2,535	21

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 277 ▲ 15 spots

Karan Singh
Rank 420 ▲ 14 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	27	10,895	19
2	Elena Rybakina	26	8,500	23
3	Coco Gauff	22	7,279	19
4	Iga Swiatek	24	7,273	19
5	Jessica Pegula	32	6,136	21
6	Amanda Anisimova	24	5,995	20
7	Elina Svitolina	31	3,910	15
8	Mirra Andreeva	18	3,746	21
9	Jasmine Paolini	30	3,722	20
10	Victoria Mboko	19	3,531	21
11	Karolina Muchova	29	3,318	17
12	Belinda Bencic	29	3,090	19
13	Linda Noskova	21	2,849	23
14	Ekaterina Alexandrova	31	2,789	26
15	Naomi Osaka	28	2,324	21

Top Indians ▶

Vaishnavi Adkar
Rank 385 ▲▼ No change

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 386 ▲▼ No change

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Man. City	33	21	7	5	66	29	37	70
2	Arsenal	33	21	7	5	63	26	37	70
3	Man. United	33	16	10	7	58	45	13	58
4	Aston Villa	33	17	7	9	47	41	6	58
5	Liverpool	33	16	7	10	54	43	11	55
6	Brighton	34	13	11	10	48	39	9	50
7	Bournemouth	34	11	16	7	52	52	0	49
8	Chelsea	34	13	9	12	53	45	8	48
9	Brentford	33	13	9	11	48	44	4	48
10	Everton	33	13	8	12	40	39	1	47
11	Sunderland	33	12	10	11	36	40	-4	46
12	Fulham	33	13	6	14	43	46	-3	45
13	Crystal Palace	32	11	10	11	35	36	-1	43
14	Newcastle	33	12	6	15	46	49	-3	42
15	Leeds United	34	9	13	12	44	51	-7	40
16	N. Forest	33	9	9	15	36	45	-9	36
17	West Ham	33	8	9	16	40	57	-17	33
18	Tottenham	33	7	10	16	42	53	-11	31
19	Burnley	34	4	8	22	34	68	-34	20
20	Wolves	33	3	8	22	24	61	-37	17

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	33	25	3	5	78	29	49	78
2	AC Milan	33	19	9	5	48	27	21	66
3	Napoli	33	20	6	7	48	33	15	66
4	Juventus	33	18	9	6	57	29	28	63
5	Como	33	16	10	7	57	28	29	58
6	Roma	33	18	4	11	46	29	17	58
7	Atalanta	33	14	12	7	45	29	16	54
8	Bologna	33	14	6	13	42	39	3	48
9	Lazio	33	12	11	10	34	30	4	47
10	Sassuolo	33	13	6	14	41	44	-3	45
11	Udinese	33	12	7	14	38	43	-5	43
12	Torino	33	11	7	15	37	54	-17	40
13	Genoa	33	10	9	14	40	46	-6	39
14	Parma	33	9	12	12	24	40	-16	39
15	Fiorentina	33	8	12	13	38	45	-7	36
16	Cagliari	33	8	9	16	33	47	-14	33
17	Cremonese	33	6	10	17	26	47	-21	28
18	Lecce	33	7	7	19	22	46	-24	28
19	Verona	33	3	9	21	23	56	-33	18
20	Pisa	33	2	12	19	24	60	-36	18

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	32	27	1	4	85	30	55	82
2	Real Madrid	32	23	4	5	67	30	37	73
3	Villarreal	32	19	5	8	57	37	20	62
4	Atletico Madrid	32	17	6	9	53	35	18	57
5	Real Betis	32	12	13	7	48	40	8	49
6	Getafe	32	13	5	14	28	32	-4	44
7	Celta Vigo	32	11	11	10	44	41	3	44
8	Real Sociedad	32	11	9	12	49	49	0	42
9	Athletic Club	32	12	5	15	34	45	-11	41
10	Osasuna	32	10	9	13	37	39	-2	39
11	Rayo Vallecano	32	9	11	12	30	38	-8	38
12	Espanyol	32	10	8	14	37	49	-12	38
13	Girona	32	9	11	12	35	48	-13	38
14	Valencia	32	9	9	14	35	47	-12	36
15	Real Mallorca	32	9	8	15	40	49	-9	35
16	Elche	32	8	11	13	42	49	-7	35
17	Sevilla	32	9	7	16	39	53	-14	34
18	Alaves	32	8	9	15	36	48	-12	33
19	Levante	32	8	8	16	37	50	-13	32
20	Real Oviedo	32	6	10	16	25	49	-24	28

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	30	25	4	1	109	29	80	79
2	Dortmund	30	19	7	4	61	31	30	64
3	RB Leipzig	30	18	5	7	59	37	22	59
4	Stuttgart	30	17	5	8	62	42	20	56
5	Hoffenheim	30	16	6	8	59	44	15	54
6	Leverkusen	30	15	7	8	60	41	19	52
7	SC Freiburg	30	12	7	11	44	48	-4	43
8	E. Frankfurt	30	11	9	10	55	57	-2	42
9	FC Augsburg	30	10	6	14	38	54	-16	36
10	Mainz	30	8	10	12	36	45	-9	34
11	Union Berlin	30	8	8	14	34	52	-18	32
12	Cologne	30	7	10	13	44	51	-7	31
13	M'gladbach	30	7	10	13	36	50	-14	31
14	Hamburg	30	7	10	13	33	48	-15	31
15	Werder	30	8	7	15	35	53	-18	31
16	St Pauli	30	6	8	16	26	51	-25	26
17	Wolfsburg	30	6	6	18	41	66	-25	24
18	Heidenheim	30	4	7	19	33	66	-33	19

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	880	932
2	Harry Brook	857	898
3	Travis Head	853	884
4	Steve Smith	831	947
5	Kane Williamson	822	919
6	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
7	Temba Bavuma	775	806
8	Yashasvi Jaiswal	750	858
9	Saud Shakeel	734	787
10	Shubman Gill	730	807

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	879	908
2	Noman Ali	843	853
3	Mitchell Starc	838	852
4	Matt Henry	836	853
5	Pat Cummins	832	914
6	Marco Jansen	825	825
7	Scott Boland	820	820
8	Kagiso Rabada	807	902
9	Josh Hazlewood	775	864
10	Nathan Lyon	753	812

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Daryl Mitchell	823	840
2	Virat Kohli	791	908
3	Ibrahim Zadran	756	756
4	Rohit Sharma	748	879
5	Shubman Gill	716	841
6	Babar Azam	684	894
7	Shai Hope	679	782
7	Harry Tector	679	730
9	K.L. Rahul	664	676
9	Salman Agha	664	664

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	705	775
2	Jofra Archer	649	682
3	Keshav Maharaj	645	737
4	Adil Rashid	629	671
5	Josh Hazlewood	626	725
6	Maheesh Theekshana	624	680
6	Kuldeep Yadav	624	757
8	Mehidy Hasan	615	722
9	Mitchell Santner	605	656
10	Adam Zampa	599	696

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	875	931
2	Ishan Kishan	871	871
3	Sahibzada Farhan	848	848
4	Phil Salt	792	881
5	Pathum Nissanka	766	796
6	Tilak Varma	742	845
7	Suryakumar Yadav	722	912
8	Jos Buttler	716	794
9	Tim Seifert	712	749
10	Dewald Brevis	702	738

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	753	828
2	Varun Chakaravarthy	740	818
3	Abrar Ahmed	736	757
4	Adil Rashid	721	747
5	Jasprit Bumrah	702	783
6	Adam Zampa	682	746
7	Corbin Bosch	669	745
8	Matthew Forde	667	679
9	Mustafizur Rahman	665	718
10	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	663	757

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Imagine India at the World Cup; wherever the team goes, people of Indian origin will turn up to watch

Jamshedpur FC head coach Owen Coyle has a global view of football, thanks to his experiences around the world. In this interview, he talks about returning to India, making it to the Premier League, meeting Alex Ferguson after beating Manchester United, and helping keep the streets of Burnley free of violence

PHOTO: THULASI KAKKAT

Owen Coyle with Alex Ferguson. GETTY IMAGES

INTERVIEW

Owen Coyle

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Owen Coyle won promotion to the English Premier League both as a player and coach. The Scotsman, who played for the Republic of Ireland, has managed teams in the UK, the USA and India. Excerpts from an interview Coyle, 59, gave *The Hindu* at Kochi, ahead of his team Jamshedpur FC's ISL clash against Kerala Blasters last weekend:

So you are back in Jamshedpur, where, in your first stint, you guided the team to its first title, the League Winner's Shield in 2021-22.

I arrived in India towards the end of January, and we had three weeks to do six weeks of preparation. Very limited time, but that was because of the circumstances.

So you were tracking Indian football from back home?

> An Indian couple from Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai or Kolkata leave India and go to Manchester, and have a child there. That child is not any less Indian because he was born in Manchester

Yes, I have been here for years at different clubs. And the call from Jamshedpur came in January, once the ISL was decided. I had numerous offers back home, and I was enjoying a bit of family time, too. I have always wanted to make sure that the football challenge was something that was exciting for me. And having worked at Jamshedpur before, I knew how well the club was run.

Australian-born Ryan Williams recently played – and scored – for India against Hong Kong China in the AFC Asian Cup qualifier. Do you think India should have tried to make use of talent from overseas before that?

Yes. And I am well qualified to speak about this because I was born in Scotland of Irish parents. My point is this: an Indian couple from Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai or Kolkata leave India and go to Manchester, and have a child there. That child is not any less Indian because he was born in Manchester. And the diaspora of India all over the world is incredible. You could find players of Indian origins in top leagues.

There is one back home in Scotland as well: Yan Dhanda, a fantastic player.

> His kit man came in and said, 'Gaffer, the boys are on the bus.' Sir Alex said, 'Well, they will wait until I am ready. Had they done their job better, we might have left earlier'

Jack Charlton's Ireland team that I played for had eight or nine players not born in Ireland, but born in England or Scotland of Irish parents. Charlton's Ireland went to the European Championship and the World Cup finals. Imagine India playing at the World Cup. Wherever that team goes, people of Indian origin will turn up to watch them play.

And India used to be good at football. It was a semifinalist at the 1956 Olympics.

Yes, I know India has a history in football. You know two or three years ago, we were playing a pre-season game against Mohammedan in Kolkata. I went into the Mohammedan club room and they had beautiful pictures all around. Back in Scotland, I am a supporter of Celtic, Glasgow. One of Mohammedan's most famous players [Mohammed Salim] played for Celtic, back in the 1930s. He actually played bare feet, and they had to wrap his feet in bandages.

The highlight of your coaching career must be taking Burnley to the Premier League in 2009.

I don't know if you're aware of this, but the population of Burnley in the actual town itself is 60,000 people. That Burnley team I inherited were in the bottom half of the Championship. My budget for taking Burnley into the Premier League was £6 million. When we went into the Premier League, our budget was the lowest budget in the league's history.

And you didn't do too badly in the league.

Oh, we did great. To go back to your question, for the playoff final at Wembley we had 40,000 tickets. There was nobody left in the town of Burnley. They were all in London for the game. And I am in my office and my secretary comes in and she says, 'Gaffer, the police chief inspector is there to see you.' And I immediately think, 'Oh, I hope none of my players are in any trouble.' The chief inspector tells me: 'Owen, I wanted to congratulate you. Because of how well the team plays, there is less trouble at the weekends. Everybody's in a good mood, so there is less violence.'

And you also gained promotion to the Premier League as a player, and scored at Wembley for Bolton Wanderers in the playoff final against Reading in 1995.

We were 2-0 down. And I scored Bolton's first goal in the 75th minute in our 4-3 win. I didn't score with many headers, but this one I got up and scored a great header.

The coaches you admire?

I think I have had something like 21 or 22 managers in my career. The ones I competed against were absolute stars – Sir Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger.

People don't know that Sir Alex was brilliant with younger managers. He would give so much time. Sir Alex used to come and watch our games to see how we were doing. And he would send me messages, like 'Owen, you have a great young team, lovely spirit. Keep it going.'

And the great thing I love about what Sir Alex did was in an elite team that had to win, he found a pathway for young players. One of the first messages I got when we won the playoff final at Wembley was from him – 'Owen, what an achievement.'

He said, 'I look forward to coming to Turf Moor [Burnley's home ground]. Make sure you have a couple of nice bottles of red wine when I come to visit.' As luck would have it, our first home game was against Manchester United. So I said to my press man, 'You have to go into the town, get me two of the best bottles of red wine you can get for Sir Alex.'

He went and got me two bottles of red wine, for something like £700 or £800. They weren't cheap. Now, I have never had an alcoholic drink in my life. I took the two bottles and I went to put them in my fridge. My press man told me, 'You can't put red wine in a fridge. They have got to breathe at room temperature.' So I took them out.

Burnley scored a shocking victory against Manchester United in that game.

Yes, we won. Robbie Blake scored with a wonderful volley. Sir Alex came in after the game and stayed for two hours. United were going for their fourth title then. One of the greatest teams in the world, and he was one of the greatest managers ever. But lost the game against a small club like Burnley. He didn't come in and say bye-bye. He waited for two hours. We spoke about everything because he is very worldly, a very, very clever man.

His kit man came in and said, 'Gaffer, the boys are on the bus.' Sir Alex said, 'Well, they will wait until I am ready. Had they done their job better, we might have left earlier.'

Then my press officer told me what Sir Alex said at the press conference, when he was asked how a three-time champion could lose to Burnley. He said, 'Because they have something that money can't buy; they have an unbelievable team spirit and work ethic. No amount of money can buy that.'

GAME THEORY

Top shot-stoppers in Serie A 2025-26

We take a look at how often goalkeepers in Italy's top flight have saved shots and kept clean sheets so far this season.

Goalkeeper	Club	Games	Shots on target faced	Saves	Save %	Clean sheets	Clean sheet %
Jean Butez	Como	33	103	79	76.7	15	45.5
Yann Sommer	Inter	30	87	61	71.3	14	46.7
Mile Svilar	Roma	33	126	98	77.8	14	42.4
Mike Maignan	Milan	32	107	87	79.4	13	40.6
Marco Carnesecchi	Atalanta	33	124	97	77.4	12	36.4
Michele Di Gregorio	Juventus	26	74	52	71.6	12	48.0
Ivan Provedel	Lazio	27	112	87	78.6	12	44.4
Emil Audero	Cremonese	29	149	113	75.2	9	31.0
Vanja Milinkovic-Savic	Napoli	24	57	43	70.2	9	37.5
Alberto Paleari	Torino	24	99	65	65.7	9	37.5
Wladimiro Falcone	Lecce	33	129	89	67.4	8	24.2
Maduka Okoye	Udinese	25	92	66	70.7	8	32.0
Elia Caprile	Cagliari	33	150	104	70.0	7	21.2
David de Gea	Fiorentina	33	142	103	71.8	7	21.2
Lukasz Skorupski	Bologna	17	43	30	69.8	7	41.2
Edoardo Corvi	Parma	16	59	43	74.6	6	37.5
Arijanet Muric	Sassuolo	31	151	116	76.2	6	19.4
Nicola Leali	Genoa	20	79	55	69.6	4	20.0
Lorenzo Montipo	Hellas Verona	30	113	67	58.4	4	13.3
Adrian Semper	Pisa	20	93	64	68.8	4	20.0
Zion Suzuki	Parma	16	69	49	69.6	4	25.0

Jean Butez

Yann Sommer

Mile Svilar

Mike Maignan

SOURCE: FBREF.COM | MINIMUM 10 GAMES PLAYED

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Run forever

Ultramarathons are races in which runners compete over distances longer than the traditional marathon distance of 42.195 kilometres.

Ultramarathons come in two primary forms: races that cover a specified distance and those that last for a predetermined period.

The most common distances are 50 kilometres, 50 miles (80.47 km), 100 kilometres and 100 miles (160.93 km). The longest certified race distance is 3100 miles (4988.96 km)!

The most common time periods are 6, 12 and 24 hours, 3, 6 and 10 days, generally run on a track or a short road course. The multi-day races are held in stages, with breaks for sleep.

Ultramarathons typically have aid stations, which are temporary facilities that provide supplies and support to the competitors.

In addition to the distance, many ultramarathons have other significant obstacles, including rugged terrain, elevation changes and even inclement weather.

Perhaps to compensate ever so slightly, many ultramarathons are run in scenic locations, such as The Big Alta 100k, featured in this photograph, held north of San Francisco.

Waste collectors, burial ground workers not paid for months in city

This has forced workers, in an unofficial arrangement, to seek money from citizens

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Waste collectors and burial ground workers haven't been paid for several months in the city, making it hard for them to make ends meet. This has also forced these workers, in an unofficial arrangement, to seek money from citizens.

Eeranna, a waste collector in the East Corporation, said the last time he was paid his salary was in September 2025, and since then, he has been surviving on selling plastic he picks up from the waste collected from households and the money some residents give him on a monthly basis.

"We have been forced to beg for money from households. Contractors ask us why they should pay us salaries when we take money from the residents. Even those who were generously giving us some money earlier now complain they are paying a user fee for the service and ask why they should pay us as well," Mr. Eeranna said.

A long-standing demand for bringing waste collectors under the direct payment system has not been met, says a union leader.

Appanna, a union leader working with waste collectors in BBMP Pourakarmikara Sangha, said that a long-standing demand for bringing waste collectors under the Direct Payment System had not been met. "Not only do contractors pay salaries irregularly, but also pay less than mandated. The passbooks and ATM cards of most of these waste collectors are still with them," he said.

The contractors, in turn, point fingers at the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) authorities, saying they have pending bills piled up and the last time their bills were cleared was in December 2025.

A senior official said that a backlog of three months for garbage bills is normal and added that the bills would be cleared soon.

Burial ground workers

Meanwhile, 96 people, working in 52 burial grounds and 12 electric crematoriums in the city, have also not been paid for months. "Most of us haven't got our salaries since the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was split into five corporations in September 2025. Individual corporations cite transition issues. We have appealed to GBA Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao to chair a meeting on burial grounds and crematoriums with all five commissioners, but that has also not happened yet," said M.D. Chandraiah, a helper at Hebbal electric crematorium and vice-president of Prabuddha Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Burial Grounds and Electric Crematoriums Workers' Association.

He said it had become so difficult to sustain that he plans to shortly write to the Governor and Chief Minister.

"What they pay is just over ₹10,000 and they do not pay even that for months on end. How do they expect us to make a living?" he asked.

These workers were brought under the Direct Payment System of the erstwhile BBMP during the previous BJP regime.

A senior civic official said that Central Corporation had already paid its burial grounds and crematorium workers up to date and other corporations would follow soon.

City South Division gets new DCP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Friday issued an order naming Kona Vamsi Krishna as the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) for South Division, Bengaluru. Lokesh Bharamappa Jagalasar, who was holding the post, has been transferred.

Mr. Krishna is a 2014 batch IPS officer and was serving as the Superintendent of Police at Lokayukta. The government is yet to assign a post for Mr. Jagalasar.

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by

V. SOMANNA
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With over 96 lakh MSME units, the state ranks No. 1 in India, transforming local enterprises into powerful engines of economic progress.

This evolution reflects a decisive shift towards self-reliance, grassroots entrepreneurship, and large-scale job creation. By connecting local enterprises to national and global markets, MSMEs now form the backbone of Uttar Pradesh's economy, supporting over 311 lakh livelihoods and accelerating the state's journey towards a $1 trillion economy.

UP MSME POWER NUMBERS

96 Lakh MSME UNITS (Highest in India)	**311 Lakh** Employment Generated	**4,51,775 Jobs** Created under Mukhymantri Yuva Udyami Scheme	**3,26,473 Jobs** Generated through ODOP initiative (Financial Assistance Scheme).	**4,20,540** Artisans Empowered	**₹1.86 Lakh Cr.** Exports (FY 2024-25)

EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan
Supporting young entrepreneurs with access to finance and opportunity: • 1,47,312 youth supported • 4,51,775 employment opportunities created

Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarozgar Yojana
Promoting self-employment across sectors: • 37,280 units established • ₹940.86 crore disbursed as margin money • 2,98,240 jobs generated

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)
Strengthening micro-enterprise ecosystems: • 32,936 entrepreneurs supported • ₹1,105.49 crore disbursed as margin money • 2,63,488 employment opportunities generated

ODOP: LOCAL TO GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION

The One District One Product (ODOP) initiative is redefining traditional industries and connecting them to global markets:

Skill & Toolkit Development • 1,46,298 individuals trained
- Common Facility Centres (CFC)
- 30 projects implemented across 24 districts

Marketing & Branding Support • ₹80.48 crore support
- 8,435 artisans benefited • Products now accessible through the ODOP e-commerce platform

SKILL DEVELOPMENT & TRADITIONAL EMPOWERMENT

Through focused skill development programmes, Uttar Pradesh is strengthening its artisan base and preserving traditional industries:

Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana
- 4,20,540 artisans trained & equipped

Training Programmes
- 54,636 individuals trained under SC/ST scheme
- 17,848 individuals trained under OBC scheme

BUILDING INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

A robust infrastructure ecosystem is accelerating MSME growth across the state:
- MSME parks (10-50 acres) planned across districts
- Integrated facilities including testing labs, design centres, and training institutes
- Industrial zones and employment hubs under development statewide

ENTREPRENEUR-FRIENDLY ECOSYSTEM

Progressive policies and digital governance are enabling ease of doing business:
- MSME Act 2020: inspection exemptions for up to 1,000 days
- Nivesh Mitra portal for seamless, single-window clearances
- Fully digital approvals, NOCs, and licensing systems
- Transparent, time-bound processes

TRADE, EXPORTS & GLOBAL OUTREACH

Uttar Pradesh is rapidly expanding its global footprint:
- Export growth increased from ₹86,000 crore (2016-17) to ₹1.86 lakh crore (2024-25)
- Exports projected to reach ₹3.14 lakh crore by Nov. 2025-26
- 77 products in the state have received GI (Geographical Indication) registration, while 152 more are in the process of obtaining it.
- Buyers from 70+ countries engaged

Achievements: • Gold Award (2024) • Bronze Award (2025)

KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES IMPACT

Revitalising rural economies through sustainable livelihoods:
- 463,297 employment opportunities have been generated through various schemes. (2017-25)
- 644 Matikala units established
- 4,677 solar charkhas distributed
- 9,354 jobs created via solar charkhas
- Target: 30,000 textile jobs by 2026-27
- 55,000 self-employment opportunities projected

EXPO & MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening market access and creating global trade platforms across Uttar Pradesh:
- World-class Expo Marts established in Lucknow and Greater Noida, emerging as key trade and exhibition hubs
- Bhadohi Carpet Bazaar operational, supporting traditional export industries
- Over 143 exhibitions organised in the past nine years, boosting enterprise visibility and market linkages
- Generated ₹162.45 crore in business turnover through exhibition-led trade activities

Investment to Employment

₹50 Lakh Cr.	₹15 Lakh Cr.	₹110 Lakh	₹60 Lakh
Proposals Received	Projects Grounded	Jobs Potential	Jobs Created

From investment intent to real employment outcomes

Investment driving employment growth

Strong investment inflows are translating into large-scale job creation across Uttar Pradesh

₹50 lakh crore investment proposals received

₹15 lakh crore projects grounded and under implementation

Employment potential of over 110 Lakh jobs

More than 60 Lakh jobs already created

A robust pipeline of investments continues to fuel industrial expansion and sustainable employment generation across the state.

> "From local artisans to global markets, Uttar Pradesh is scripting a new chapter of growth powered by enterprise, innovation and opportunity

> "MSMEs today stand at the heart of this transformation, driving employment, empowering youth and strengthening the state's economic foundation

VISION: TOWARDS A $1 TRILLION ECONOMY

With strong policy support, infrastructure expansion, and technology-driven growth, Uttar Pradesh is poised to:

Accelerate industrial development · Generate large-scale employment · Strengthen rural and urban economies · Emerge as a global manufacturing and export hub

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3 booked for forcing students to remove 'janivara'

A similar incident led to a controversy in Shivamogga and Bidar last year, following which KEA issued instructions not to force any students to remove any religious symbol

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city police have booked three staff members of a private college in Bengaluru for allegedly forcing some students to remove their 'janivara' (sacred thread) before entering the venue of the Common Entrance Test (CET-2026) on Friday.

A similar incident had led to a controversy in Shivamogga and Bidar last year, following which the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) had issued instructions not to force any students to remove any religious identification or symbol.

The police said that a student, who was appearing for the CET Physics examination at Krupanidhi Pre-University College at Koramangala in Bengaluru on Friday, was asked to remove the 'janivara' before entering the exam hall.

Following the incident, the student's parents registered a complaint at the Madiwala Police Station, stating that their religious sentiments had been hurt. Two other students also complained that they were similarly treated.

Following the complaint, the college management suspended the staff members- Sudhakar D., Saritha R., and Girijamma- who had allegedly forced students to remove the 'janivara'. An inquiry has been ordered.

BJP leaders R. Ashok and Tejasvi Surya meeting Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh over the 'janivara' row, in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> Forcing a person to remove a sacred thread is a violation of religious freedom and personal rights and has caused significant emotional distress
>
> **RAGHU BHIMA RAO**
> Complainant and parent of one of the students

What parents say

The complainant and parent of one of the students, Raghu Bhima Rao, said, "Forcing a person to remove a sacred thread is a violation of religious freedom and personal rights and has caused significant emotional distress."

Sharing details about the incident Harish, parent of another student who was allegedly made to remove the 'janivara' said, "First my son was asked to remove an earring, then a thread tied on his hand. He agreed to remove these two items and later he was called back again and was forced to remove the 'janivara'. He called up my wife and she rushed to the college." He said that this incident had left his son in panic and feared it would have impacted his performance.

Sudheendra, parent of another student, alleged, "When my son was asked to remove the thread, he called me and asked if he could remove it. I told him not to. But by then he had removed it. After the first paper, I entered the college campus and went to the principal's chamber. All the three parents were asked to wait for 45 minutes and later, the blame was shifted on the 'D' group staff. The principal told us that they had trained the staff not to ask students to remove 'mangalsutra', 'janivara', or any other items worn for religious reasons."

The Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasabha has appealed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking action against the college and also demanded disaffiliation of the college where the incident was reported.

KEA clarification

The authorities of KEA, meanwhile, have clarified that there were no instructions or regulations to remove any religious identity, including 'janivara'. "This year we have deputed trained dress code officers to check and also informed students to reach the centre two hours before if they have any such dress code to be verified," said H. Prasanna, executive director of KEA.

The KEA has said that the Deputy Commissioner of the Bengaluru Urban district has been asked to submit a report on the incident as he is the custodian of the exams. A team, headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner, has been formed in this regard.

Reacting to the incident, Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar said, "Action will be initiated against the staff and principal of the college and even a police complaint will be filed. I feel some people are intentionally doing this to tarnish the image of the government."

BJP demands stern action

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking exception to the incidents of three boys writing the CET being allegedly made to remove their 'janivara' before entering the exam hall, the BJP has termed it as an insult to the religious sentiments and demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for it. He alleged that Hindus were being targeted in such incidents. Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok, who took one of the three boys who was allegedly asked to remove his 'janivara', and his parents to the office of the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner to bring pressure on the police to register a case in this regard, told media persons that the police were initially reluctant to register a case. Only after he had a telephonic conversation with the DG&IGP and met the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner did they agreed to register a case, he said.

Mr. Ashok alleged that the CET authorities were behaving in an insensitive manner as they were of the view that the present Congress dispensation, led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, would be happy if they ask the students remove the 'janivara'.

'Engineering seats will be allotted without waiting for NEET results'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar said that the government is planning to conduct seat allotment for engineering and other professional courses without waiting for the results of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-2026) results.

Speaking to reporters after visiting a CET examination centre on Friday, the Higher Education Minister said, "We are examining the possibilities of conducting counselling for engineering and other professional courses instead of waiting for the NEET results. This will help students get engineering seats in the college of their choice."

Skill lab fees

Meanwhile, the Minister also announced that from this year, even the skill lab fees fixed for private engineering colleges, where they are allowed to collect up to ₹20,000, will be collected by the Karnataka Examinations Authority.

MLC's plea to State govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Member of the Legislative Council and former Deputy Speaker Puttanna has urged the State government to allow the services of senior professors of first grade colleges as PhD mentors in public universities facing shortage of permanent faculties.

He inaugurated the 36th annual session of Karnataka History Congress on the Central College campus in Bengaluru on Friday.

He advocated that necessary facilities and greater encouragement should be provided for the study and research in humanities, including history, at the higher education level.

Janaki Nair, retired professor of history at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, suggested that the State government develop a Karnataka Knowledge System.

Ms. Nair suggested that the Archives Department be shifted from Vidhana Soudha for open access to the public and researchers.

Commissioner of South Corporation inspects flood-prone areas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru South Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh on Friday conducted a survey of flood-prone areas in his jurisdiction ahead of the onset of monsoon.

Mr. Ramesh inspected areas including parts of HSR Layout, J.P. Nagar, Bellandur lake, and surrounding localities, directing officials to fast-track mitigation measures taken up by the corporation.

HSR Layout, particularly around 12th Main Road in 7th Sector, where flooding is witnessed repeatedly, is now being equipped with roadside drains. These are being connected to the primary stormwater drain along the Outer Ring Road. The Commissioner instructed officials to complete the connectivity work without delay to prevent waterlogging during heavy rains. He also inspected the Koramangala Valley (K-100) stormwater drain near Jakkasandra in the BTM Layout constituency. Officials noted that while a parallel drain exists, a diversion channel leading into Bellandur Lake, is significantly narrower at five to six metres compared to the 30-metre-wide primary drain. He warned that unless the inlet to Bellandur lake is operational during intense rainfall, upstream flooding is likely. To take action, he directed officials to write to the BDA, urging expedited work on the lake inlet, and also to initiate desilting operations in the K-100 Valley. At KAS Officers' Layout, he said that flooding is unlikely in the coming monsoon as a parallel drain along the Outer Ring Road near the Central Silk Board Metro Station has been constructed.

Mr. Ramesh also directed officials to desilt downstream drains of Madiwala lake to ensure the free flow of rainwater.

Jayadeva institute signs MoU with GBA to set up 100-bed cardiac hub

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a step toward decentralising cardiac healthcare, the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to establish a 100-bed Jayadeva satellite unit at Govindarajnagara in west Bengaluru, a promise made in the State Budget.

The agreement was signed between Jayadeva hospital Director B. Dinesh and GBA Chief Commissioner N. Maheshwar Rao in the presence of Medical Education & Skill Development Minister Sharan Prakash Patil, MLA for Govindarajnagar Priya Krishna, Additional Chief Secretary Mohammed Moshin, West Mahanagara Palike Commissioner K.V. Rajendra and other senior officials.

"The new unit to be housed within the GBA's existing multi-speciality building at Govindarajnagara will serve residents of Vijayanagar, Rajajinagar, Yeswanthpur, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Dasarahalli, Peenya, and Bengaluru Rural, as well as patients from Bengaluru South, Mandya, Tumakuru, and Hassan districts at no or minimal cost," said the Minister.

The State government has allocated ₹15 crore as an immediate measure to set up the 100-bed unit. FILE PHOTO

To ease the burden

The satellite facility is also expected to ease the patient burden at Jayadeva's main hospital in Jayanagar, south Bengaluru, which already runs satellite units in Kalaburagi and Mysuru.

The State government has allocated ₹15 crore as an immediate measure to set up the 100-bed unit. Mr. Krishna is committed to ensuring that any civil and electrical modifications are funded through West Mahanagara Palike and to establishing a cath-lab facility under CSR funds.

Plan for extension

Dr. Dinesh announced plans to extend the Jayadeva network across Bengaluru with units planned for central, north and east Bengaluru.

A site for the north Bengaluru unit has already been identified and would be finalised in consultation with Byatarayanapura MLA and Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, he said.

In another development, Dr. Patil and Mr. Krishna directed West Mahanagara Palike Commissioner to identify at least five acres of government land in the region to establish a new campus of Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMC&RI), extending quality medical education and hospital beyond its current base on K.R. Road in south Bengaluru.

Inter-State duo held in house break-in case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kodigehalli police have cracked down on an inter-State duo allegedly involved in a house break-in theft in northeast Bengaluru.

The accused have been identified as Roshan Bole and Akash Kothe. They were lodged in a Maharashtra jail and were brought to the city on a body warrant.

The case came to light after a resident of Sahakaranagar, in the limits of the Kodigehalli Police Station, lodged a complaint on November 23, 2025. The complainant stated that the family had locked their house and travelled to their native place on November 22, leaving a security guard to watch the premises at night.

The following evening, when the guard arrived for duty, he found the gate and front door open and immediately alerted the owner. The complainant discovered that the accused had cut through a window grill, broken into the house, and fled with around 3 kg of silver articles and 250 gms of gold ornaments.

Recently, the police took one accused into custody. During interrogation, he revealed that he had teamed up with two more people, Bole and Kothe, and orchestrated the theft. Further investigation revealed that the two associates were involved in another case registered in Maharashtra and were lodged in a Nashik jail. The police secured their custody through a body warrant issued by a court and brought them to Bengaluru on different dates.

The accused revealed that the stolen silver articles had been sold to a jeweller in Srirampura. Acting on this information, the police recovered 2 kg of silver valuables from the jeweller. The total value of the recovered property is estimated at ₹5.5 lakh.

According to the police, the accused have nearly 15 cases against them in Maharashtra

The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling to begin today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 24th edition of *The Hindu* EducationPlus Career Counselling is set to begin on April 25, covering nine locations across nine cities in Karnataka.

Organised by *The Hindu*, this landmark event continues its legacy of guiding students and parents in making well-informed academic and career decisions.

Designed as a one-stop platform for academic and career counselling, the event brings together renowned educationists, career experts, and top institutions to provide personalised guidance on UPSC exam preparation and CET and NEET counselling, conducted by officials from the Karnataka Examinations Authority.

The Hindu Education Plus - 24th Year Career Counselling 2026

Region	Date	Venue	Address
Davangere	April 25, 2026 Saturday	Bapuji MBA campus	Bapuji Academy of Management and Research, Lake View Campus, S. S. Layout B Block, S.S. Layout, Shamanur Road, Davangere - 577004
Vijayapura	May 2, 2026 Saturday	BLDE Engg. campus	BLDEA's V.P. Dr. P.G. Halakatti, College of Engineering and Technology, Ashram Road, Adarsh Nagar, Vijayapura - 586101
Tumakuru	May 3, 2026 Sunday	Birla Auditorium	Birla Auditorium, Siddaganga Institute of Technology, B.H. Road, Tumakuru - 572103
Bidar	May 9, 2026 Saturday	Shaheen Parvaaz Hall	Shaheen Parvaaz Hall, Sapna Landmark, Opposite Vishal Functional Hall, Airport Road, Bidar
Mangaluru	May 9, 2026 Saturday	Sri Sudeendra Auditorium	Canara High School Main Campus, Kodiabail, Mangalore - 575003
Bengaluru	May 9, 2026 Saturday	SJRC Auditorium	Sri Jagadguru Renukacharya College of Science, Arts and Commerce, # 9, Race Course Road, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009
Kalaburagi	May 16, 2026 Saturday	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Mantapa	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Mantapa, Sharnbasva University, Vidya Nagar, Kalaburagi - 585103
Hubballi	May 16, 2026 Saturday	KLE Society's Bio Technology Auditorium	KLE Society's Bio Technology Auditorium, BVB College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar, Hubballi - 580031
Mysuru	May 16, 2026 Saturday	Sahukar Chennaiah Auditorium	Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering, P.B. No. 206, Gokulam, 3rd Stage, Mysuru - 570002

There is guidance provided on career opportunities in diverse fields including Arts, Science, Commerce, Law, Management, Engineering, Medicine, CA and Cost Management, Fashion Designing, Animation, Performing Arts, Journalism, Architecture, and more. Whether students are exploring conventional paths or emerging career trends, this forum will offer the clarity, direction, and expert advice they need.

Event schedule

Registration is from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. The programme is from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Entry is free and open to all students and parents. Contact 9448160126 / 944887181/ 9731400992 for more information or check Link: https://newsth.live/CET2026ED

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A BG-BGE

DKS petitions Rajnath Singh for relaxation of height restrictions around defence airports

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi and petitioned him to relax height restrictions around defence airports in Bengaluru.

In his letter, Mr. Shivakumar drew the attention of the Defence Minister that defence airports in Bengaluru have been imposing "excessive restrictions while granting NOC for construction within the 20km range of the airports".

"Bengaluru is one of the fastest growing cities in the world and HAL airport is located in the core area of Bengaluru where there is a huge demand for development and the additional restrictions being imposed are hampering the development in the areas around the airport," he stated in the letter. The State government has already written multiple letters to authorities concerned in the Ministry of Defence raising these concerns.

In a letter written by Tushar Giri Nath, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department, to Sajeev Kumar, Secretary, Defence Production, Department of Defence, on April 2, it was stated that as per rules, the height of buildings around defence airports is capped at 150 metres in a radius of 15 km, but HAL had been imposing the height restriction in a radius of 20 km. "This restriction is a virtual substitution of this G.S.R 751(E) which only restricts height to 150m within 15km range of the defence airports," the letter stated.

Further, he said, "The authorities representing the defence airports informed that under rule 5(2) of the G.S.R 751(E) rules, the authorised officers of the defence airports are allowed to impose additional restrictions; hence they are restricting the height based on their calculations. The HAL authorities explained that as HAL airport is being used for test flying of helicopters, as decided by a committee of pilots, additional restrictions have been incorporated in Bengaluru."

Minutes of a meeting between the State and HAL authorities indicate that these additional restrictions have been imposed only in Bengaluru and not in other cities. The additional restrictions imposed by HAL amounts to putting about 78% of additional area within the 15-20 km radius to such additional height restrictions, the letter stated.

The State government has suggested that HAL shift helicopter testing to the HAL facility at Tumakuru.

Mr. Shivakumar has appealed to Mr. Singh to examine the issue and "direct officials concerned to take necessary action to resolve the same in the interest of both flight safety and development demands of the city".

Two held for misbehaving with women in Yelahanka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police have arrested two men for allegedly misbehaving with women in Yelahanka.

The incident occurred on Kogilu Main Road on April 21 and was captured on the dashcam of a car. In the video, the accused is seen riding pillion on a scooter with his accomplice riding the vehicle. The pillion rider misbehaved with two women who were walking in the opposite direction.

The video was shared on social media platforms. The Yelahanka Police registered a *suo motu* case and tracked down the accused. The police have taken the accused into custody and seized the vehicle. Further probe is under way.

As mercury rises, so do AC, cooler sales

Retailers say the usual summer sales cycle may stretch longer this time; table fans are frequently out of stock on instant delivery platforms too

Pratyusha Srivastav
BENGALURU

Once known for its year-round pleasant climate, Bengaluru is now seeing a surge in air conditioner sales as temperatures climb to around 37°C, pushing residents to turn to cooling appliances in larger numbers than usual.

The spike in heat has led to a sharp rise in demand for air conditioners and coolers, with traders reporting a noticeable increase in sales compared to previous years. Retailers say the usual summer sales cycle may stretch longer this time. "The peak season for AC sales in Bengaluru is typically three to four months, but this time, it may extend beyond that. We have already seen a 30-35% increase in sales," said a trader in Koramangala. Another retailer in the area said coolers are largely out of stock, while AC prices have begun to rise.

Many retailers say a large share of customers are first-time buyers, with a growing interest in feature-centric models. FILE PHOTO

Rohith, a dealer based in Electronics City, said a GST reduction last September had temporarily lowered prices. "After that, manufacturers cited rising input costs and increased prices again. In recent months, prices have fluctuated multiple times and are now about 8-10% higher than the reduced rates, but the sale is still high," he said.

> It is becoming difficult to manage with just fans. I have lived here for two decades and have not experienced this kind of heat before
>
> **RIYA S.**
> Indiranagar resident

The demand surge is also visible on instant delivery platforms, where table fans are frequently out of stock.

Residents say the heat has been unusually intense this year. Riya S., an Indiranagar resident who recently purchased two ACs, said, "It is becoming difficult to manage with just fans. I have lived here for two decades and have not experienced this kind of heat before. Despite concerns about the environmental impact, ACs have become necessary."

A shop owner in Banasawadi said their store has recorded a nearly 40% increase in sales so far compared to the previous year. However, he added that price hikes during peak demand periods are a common market response.

Many retailers also pointed out that a large share of customers this season are first-time buyers, with a growing interest in feature-centric models. "Most customers now are first-time buyers and are asking about advanced features like built-in Wi-Fi for remote control," said Raghavendra N., a shop owner in Kammanahalli.

'Provide essential facilities to traffic police'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In view of rising temperatures and increasing dust pollution across the State, the Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP) has issued directions to provide basic facilities to traffic police personnel on duty.

The order comes following a representation by Mohan Kumar Danappanavar, member of the Karnataka State Police Complaints Authority, who highlighted the health risks faced by traffic police personnel working under extreme weather conditions.

According to officials, ongoing road work, pipeline installations, and other development activities have led to high levels of dust pollution. Prolonged exposure to heat and polluted air has led to concerns about respiratory issues, dehydration, and overall health of personnel.

Temporary shade arrangements such as parachute umbrellas, face masks to protect against dust and air pollution, drinking water and electrolyte supplements to prevent dehydration have to be provided, according to the directive.

The directive has been issued to all unit heads across the State.

Removing dharmic activities amounts to removing soul of the country: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that "the greatness of the Indian civilisation is intertwined with its dharmic and cultural activities and removing it amounts to removing the soul of the country", the Karnataka High Court has set aside a decision of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and Bengaluru West City Corporation that denied permission to a private association to conduct an event celebrating Sri Shankaracharya Jayanti at the Yoga Auditorium in Sankey Tank Park.

Justice M.I. Arun, while allowing a petition filed by the Malleshwaram Brahmana Sabha Trust, made observations on the "inseparable bond between Indian culture and dharma". The GBA had refused permission to hold the event, stating that the public auditorium cannot be used for holding religious and political events.

"Though India is a secular country, it does not mean that the dharmic and cultural activities in the country cannot be entertained," the court said, adding that "the Constitution of India itself features images of the Ramayana, Bhagavad Gita, Gautama Buddha, Mahavira Swami, and the like".

Thus, it said, "The celebration of Indian culture, which is intertwined with dharma, can never be considered as illegal or unconstitutional. In fact, the goodness in the same has to be actively promoted for the betterment of society."

The court noted that Shankaracharya is one of India's most revered acharyas and that the Advaita philosophy he propagated remains among the foremost philosophical traditions of the country. "The Sri Shankaracharya Jayanti celebration has to be considered both dharmic as well as cultural," the court observed.

It pointed out that the GBA advocate was unable to produce any regulations or government policy banning dharmic/cultural activities. On the other hand, the petitioner produced evidences to show that the auditorium was being previously allowed to host various private concerts and cultural programmes even though the GBA claimed it is meant only for yoga-related activities.

Terming the GBA's endorsement "unreasonable and arbitrary", the Court held that "what is not prohibited is permitted", while directing the civic body to reconsider the Trust's application.

New GCCs in State to get complementary hiring support under govt.-Naukri.com partnership

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government, through the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, IT & Biotechnology, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Naukri.com to support new Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in the State with the hiring process.

The partnership, which particularly focuses on regions beyond Bengaluru, including Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad-Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Tumakuru, and Shivamogga, will provide structured access to talent during the early stages of GCCs.

The partnership particularly focuses on regions beyond Bengaluru

Naukri.com will extend a customised GCC Starter Package to newly established GCCs registered with KITS, offering zero-cost access for an initial period of 90 days.

The package includes employer branding, assisted hiring services, and premium talent sourcing tools.

"Karnataka's strength in the GCC ecosystem is driven by the depth of our talent pool and the strength of our innovation ecosystem. Through KATALYST, we have built a robust, end-to-end support system that enables GCCs to set up, scale, and innovate from day one. This partnership with Naukri.com adds another important layer by enabling faster and more efficient access to high-quality talent," said Priyank Kharge, Minister for Electronics, IT & Biotechnology.

"As GCCs increasingly evolve into centres that are innovating and building for the world, our focus is to ensure they have the right talent and ecosystem to move up the value chain. At the same time, we are committed to expanding this growth beyond Bengaluru, creating strong talent hubs across Karnataka and ensuring more inclusive, distributed growth," he added.

The MoU is effective for a period of two years.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, APR. 25		
RISE	06:02	SET 18:33
RISE	13:25	SET 01:34
SUNDAY, APR. 26		
RISE	06:01	SET 18:34
RISE	14:18	SET 02:16
MONDAY, APR. 27		
RISE	06:01	SET 18:34
RISE	15:08	SET 02:56

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	37	21
Bengaluru	36	24

Bengaluru Today
36°C The weather will be dry. Day will be hot and uneasy. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
35°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be hot and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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Licence of homestay linked to alleged sexual assault case revoked

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

After cancelling the licence of a homestay in Kodagu following the alleged sexual assault of a woman from the U.S. on its premises, the Kodagu district administration is expected to tighten regulations governing such facilities that provide accommodation to tourists in the coming days.

According to sources in the Tourism Department in Madikeri, Deputy Commissioner of Kodagu, Somashekar S.J., cancelled the licence issued to the homestay located in Kutta following a report from the police. The licence for the facility, which had accommodated the complainant, was issued in 2024 and was valid for five years.

Tourism Department officials said they were awaiting the revision of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for homestays by the State government, as well as the outcome of a meeting convened by the Superintendent of Police of Kodagu district, to take further steps on tightening the regulations governing such tourist facilities.

The police have arrested a staff member of the homestay in connection with the alleged sexual assault, and the owner of the facility for allegedly attempting to cover up the crime.

Meanwhile, the Coorg Homestay Association has questioned the district administration's decision to cancel the licence of the homestay when the case is still under investigation.

"The authorities should have kept the licence under suspension as long as the guilt of the owner has not been confirmed," said Association president Monty Ganesh.

Members of the association urged the authorities to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the incident.

While Tourism Department officials said background verification of the homestay owner had been carried out before sanctioning a licence, there is no clarity in the SOP on the need for police verification of employees.

However, Ms. Ganesh said owners of coffee estates and homestays in Kodagu carry out verification of their employees and submit Aadhaar details to the jurisdictional police station. "Most of the employees are from Assam and West Bengal. We do the verification to ensure that Bangladeshis do not stay here illegally," she said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

IN LOVING MEMORY
25 APRIL 2026

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Indra
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Share your memories with us at
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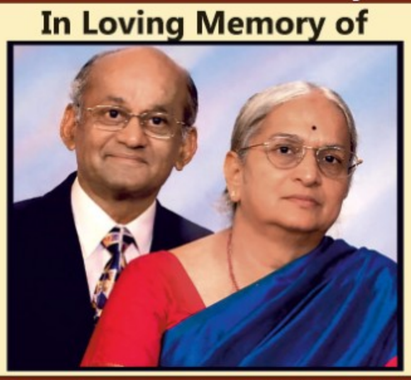

Sri. R. Srinivasan	Smt. Kalyani Srinivasan
(Formerly at HMT Ltd. & TVS Group)	(nee Tirumalai Kumara Kalyani)
September 12, 1931 – April 25, 2025	September 6, 1937 – April 28, 2015

Lovingly remembered for their enduring love and devoted care through life's journey.

Deeply missed by their daughters and sons-in-law (Rajashri Srinivasan and Reuben Besant Raj, Jayashri Srinivasan and V.S. Balakrishnan, Subhashri Srinivasan and S. Ramanujam); grandchildren, grandchildren-in-law, great-grandchildren, siblings, and extended family.

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS | THE HINDU
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Wellness drives the new workplace

From natural light and cleaner air to flexible zones, offices are being designed to boost focus, reduce stress and draw employees back in

Rajat Kapur

Work is no longer just about output; it is about experience.
GETTY IMAGES

The workplace is going through an important but subtle revolution. Efficiency, optimisation of space usage, standardisation, and cost savings were goals that were considered in designing offices until recently. This is now a thing of the past. Luxury offices are embracing wellness architecture as a design philosophy that centres on human health in the workplace.

However, this is not just a matter of aesthetics; it reflects a recognition by companies that their physical space has an impact on their productivity and business performance.

Work is no longer just about output; it is about experience. People now look for jobs that not only help them become competent in their roles but ensure they remain mentally stable and physically healthy.

Studies have proven that exposure to natural light, fresh air, and well-designed spaces can help reduce stress, improve focus and make workers happy. In today's tough market environment, where attracting talented people is key, these features are no longer an added advantage but a necessity.

Wellness architecture entails incorporating the well-being of employees into workplace design. High-end offices are incorporating design elements such as the use of natural materials and plants to connect with nature in a way that is referred to as biophilic design. Also, sophisticated lighting systems are being designed that are in sync with our circadian rhythms. Improvements in air quality, ventilation, and acoustic design are also playing a significant role in developing a space that is not just sophisticated but also influences how a person feels and performs throughout the day.

One key aspect is flexibility. Employees no longer feel comfortable being stuck at a desk. This concept is well exemplified in The Executive Centre (TEC), which has thoughtfully designed spaces that cater to various types of needs and styles. From lounge spaces that foster informal collaboration and breakout spaces that facilitate high-paced ideation sessions, wellness spaces that provide opportunities for focus and rejuvenation, to game rooms and gyms that provide spaces for unwinding and relaxation, the entire office space becomes dynamic. Apart from physical spaces, community-driven programmes and engagement are also important aspects of a wellness-driven office.

One of the challenges that organisations face as they adopt the hybrid way of working has been getting employees back into the physical environment. Wellness architecture has been a significant enabler in this regard. For instance, when the physical environment offers an experience that goes beyond what an individual could achieve at home, the likelihood of getting the employee back into the office space increases. Such a workspace can help reduce burnout, increase employee retention, and create a more harmonious organisational culture.

Wellness architecture is no longer a trend; it is an emerging norm that will define the future of workplaces around the world. It will not be how big an office is that determines its success, but how it can make a difference to those who use it.

The writer is regional managing director, North India, The Executive Centre.

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BG-BGE

Internal reservation: Cabinet clears sub-classification within 15% for SCs

The new matrix with provides for 5.25% each to Category 1 and Category 2 and 4.5% to Category 3

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In yet another formula arrived at to fork out internal reservation among the 101 Scheduled Castes in Karnataka, the Congress government on Friday announced a matrix with 5.25% each to Category 1 (Madigas and allied castes/Dalit Left) and Category 2 (Holeyas and allied castes/Dalit Right), and 4.5% to Category 3 (Bhovi, Lambani, Korama, Koracha and 59 nomadic communities) within the 15% reservation for SCs.

The government hopes to kickstart the recruitment process that has been stalled for over a year now after the announcement of the formula.

The government's decision, announced during a special Cabinet meeting, has come amid concerns and opposition raised by the Dalit Right (Category 1) and "touchable" communities in Category 3 that have felt the sub-classification restricted their opportunities in public education and employment avenues.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah being felicitated by Ministers after the Cabinet announced the decision on sub-classification of Scheduled Castes, in Bengaluru on Friday.

'Historic decision'

"It is a historic decision and the Cabinet unanimously agreed to the formula. The party had committed to internal reservation through the Chitradurga convention and election manifesto in 2023," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told pressperSons here on Friday in his post-Cabinet briefing.

When asked if various Dalit factions are happy with the new formula, the Chief Minister, flanked by Dalit Ministers in his Cabinet representing all groups, said, "I believe that all Dalit groups will agree to it."

This is the second sub-classification attempted by the Congress government, which earlier had apportioned 6% each to Dalit Left and Dalit Right communities and 5% to "touchable" communities and Alemaris within the 17% reservation for SCs.

The government, however, dropped plans to initiate recruitment process with 17% reservation for SCs and 7% for STs after facing legal hurdles over breaching the 50% cap on reservation.

Friday's decision was based on a report submitted by the technical committee headed by the Chief Secretary, who had provided options to the government.

Nomadic communities

Specifically addressing the concerns of 59 nomadic (Alemari) communities, who have been included in Category 3 along with the relatively better off communities, he said that one in every five posts reserved for the Category 3 will be reserved to Alemari communities. "If a candidate is not available from the Alemari communities, it will remain within Category 3 that will be available to other communities." Incidentally, the Alemari communities have approached the Karnataka High Court against the earlier sub-classification within 17% reservation.

Recruitment soon

The Chief Minister said that the process to fill up 56,432 posts will be rolled out immediately with the new internal reservation matrix.

"The earlier notifications issued with 6:6:5 ratio will be withdrawn and new notifications will be issued as per the Cabinet's decision. Recruitment process will start immediately."

Reiterating the government's commitment to implement 17% reservation to Scheduled Castes and 7% reservation to Scheduled Tribes after clearing legal hurdles, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "As many as 6% posts (2% for SCs and 4% for STs) will be kept as a backlog till the time the Karnataka High Court decides on the case."

Currently, the High Court is hearing the case on 56% reservation, which has breached the 50% cap fixed by the Supreme Court in Indira Sawhney Case of 1992 after Mandal Commision report was implemented. In Karnataka, the reservation had gone up to 56% after the earlier BJP government enhanced reservation to SC from 15% to 17% and to STs from 3% to 7% based on the population.

Roster issue

Amid protest over fixing roster points in recruitment that certain sections felt was favourable to one community, the government has come up with a formula. "The internal reservation will work when all three categories get opportunities in a recruitment process. If all categories cannot be covered, the internal reservation does not work. It will fall into SC General category where posts will be filled up based on merit," Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa told pressPersons.

Fight for quota

- The demand for internal reservation in Karnataka is nearly four decades old
- Dalit Left communities believe that Dalit Right and 'touchable' communities cornered benefits of public education and employment
- It received legal backing on August 1, 2024, when the Supreme Court allowed States to undertake sub-classification
- The H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission collected empirical data and submitted recommendations to govt. in August 2025
- The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Act, 2025, for 17% reservation passed by the legislature, received Governor's assent

Fifth formula — Friday's decision is the fifth formula arrived at to provide internal reservation in Karnataka

- 2012 A.J. Sadashiva Commission recommended 6% to Dalit Left, 5% to Dalit Right, 3% to Lambani, Bhovi, Korama and Koracha and 1% for nomadic communities within 15% reservation.
- 2023 Based on the then Law Minister J. Madhuswamy Committee report, the BJP government announced 6% to Dalit Left, 5.5 % to Dalit Right, 4.5.% to Lambani, Bhovi, Korama and Koracha and 1% to others within the enhnaced 17% reservation to SCs
- 2025 The H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission – based on empirical data – recommended 1% to 59 nomadic communities, 6% to Dalit Left, 5% to Dalit Right, 4% to Lambani, Bhovi, Korama and Koracha and 1% to Adi Karnataka, Adi Andhra and Adi Dravida within 17% reservation
- 2025 Under pressure from Dalit Right groups and 'touchable' communities, the government announced 6% each to Dalit Left and Dalit Right, and 5% to Lambani, Bhovi, Korama and Koracha with whom 59 Alemari communities were brought together within 17% reservation
- 2026 Attempting a consensus among factions, the Congress Government announced 5.25% each to Dalit Left and Dalit Right, and 4.5% to Lambani, Bhovi, Korama and Koracha and 59 Alemari communities within the 15% reservation

Dalit Ministers welcome decision

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Dalit Ministers in the State Cabinet, who were divided over the internal reservation issue, on Friday spoke in unison, even as they welcomed the decision as being fair to all communities. The internal reservation had driven a wedge between communities bringing acrimony.

"This will end the confusion between Right and Left groups. We were together in the past and we will remain together in future. All 101 castes have received justice," Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa, representing Dalit Left, told pressPersons even as he thanked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for the decision.

Terming the decision as "historic", Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi, who represents Bhovi community, acknowledged that the roster issue had created confusion, and that the decision brings justice to all.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara, coming from Dalit Right community and who headed the Congress manifesto committee, said that Karnataka had found itself in a unique situation with many castes divided. "The decision could provide a model for the country," Dr. Parameshwara added.

Siddaramaiah pitches for making Bengaluru agri tech capital

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday pitched for Bengaluru, the country's IT capital, to also emerge as the country's agri tech capital.

Inaugurating the Global Agritech Summit-2026, organised by the Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FKCCI) in association with the University of Agricultural Sciences-Bengaluru, the Chief Minister said there was a need to use all technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, for the development of agriculture sector with a focus on the integrated development of the State.

The Chief Minister expressed concern that the present day youth were going away from agriculture. They would show interest towards agriculture only if the sector becomes profitable, he observed.

HC stays trial of rape case against student subject to him paying ₹75,000 a month for welfare of girl, child

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday directed a 22-year-old engineering student, who is accused of repeatedly raping a 20-year-old girl on the false promise of marriage, to pay ₹75,000 every month to the girl and her 10-month-old child, born out of their relationship, as a condition for staying the trial of the criminal proceeding against him till adjudication of his petition.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on the petition filed by Srikrishna J. Rao of Puttur in Dakshina Kannada district, who had challenged the legality of the case registered against him under Sections 64(2)(m) and 69 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The petitioner, either personally or through his parents, who are co-accused in the case against whom the proceedings have been stayed by the court earlier, must pay ₹75,000 per month for the sustenance of the mother and the baby until the petition's final disposal, the court said while ordering payment of first instalment on or before May 1.

This measure, though interim, is aimed to alleviate the immediate hardship faced by the complainant's family who presently find themselves in a state of abandonment, the court said.

The petitioner, who was pursuing engineering course, and the girl were in a relationship. A child was born and it is undisputed and medically substantiated that the petitioner is the biological father of the child, the court noted.

Advocate for the petitioner argued that the acts alleged were entirely consensual, arising from mutual affection, and therefore did not attract the penal provisions invoked. Opposing this, counsel for the complainant, said the girl had become a mother at a young age from the relationship she is unable to care for her.

"It shocks the court that a young woman, now merely 20 years of age, has been thrust prematurely into the responsibilities of motherhood. At an age when life avenues/opportunities should have unfolded with promise, she now finds herself burdened with unforeseen obligations. It is alleged that the petitioner is reneging on his promise of marriage," the court observed.

Observing that the matter cannot be confined to consensual acts and grant a blanket stay of further proceedings as the child born from the acts of the petitioner and the complainant is now merely 10 months old, the court said that the evident hardship faced by the complainant and the family cannot be brushed aside.

Hospitals told to set up heatstroke management rooms

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With several districts in Karnataka experiencing rising mercury levels and heatwaves, the Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare Services has issued an advisory on measures to be taken at healthcare institutions for the management of health problems caused by excessive heat and prevention of risks and deaths from heatstroke.

The measures include the implementation of Heat Stroke Management Rooms in hospitals, with two beds in community health centres, five in taluk hospitals and 10 in district hospitals. It has been instructed that the rooms be functional every year from March 1 to July 31.

Training

The advisory has also instructed providing training to all doctors and paramedical staff on the management of Heat Related Illnesses (HRI) and to establish ORS corners in all health institutions.

All health institutions must submit reports related to HRI to the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) on a daily basis.

So far, five districts in the State, including Kalaburagi, Bidar, Raichur, Koppal and Ballari, have breached a maximum temperature of 40 degrees Celsius.

Transferred

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Patil Yalagouda Shivanagouda, Commissioner, Agriculture Department, is transferred with immediate effect and posted until further orders as Executive Director, Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust, Bengaluru. He is also placed in concurrent charge as Commissioner, Agriculture Department, said a release.

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA
HIGH COURT BUILDINGS, BENGALURU-560001

No. HCA-II/6/2017 Date: 18.04.2026

NOTIFICATION

QUOTATION FOR ALLOTMENT OF ONE VACANT KIOSK IN THE PREMISES OF HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU

Quotations are invited from the interested Person / firms for allotment of one vacant Kiosk adjacent to Nandini Parlour in the premises of the High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru for sale of Juice /Bakery Items / Sprouts / Pasta / Cut Fruits etc., on License basis. For more details and terms & conditions vist website: **https://judiciary.karnataka.gov.in/.**

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DIPR/CP/319/NR/2026-27

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

DNB FINAL EXAMINATION – JUNE 2026

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the DNB Final Theory Examinations on **18th, 19th, 20th and 21st June 2026.**

The online applications are being invited from **24-04-2026** (03:00PM onwards) **to 14-05-2026** (till 11:55 PM) at NBEMS website:
https://natboard.edu.in/viewnbeexam?exam=dnb

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333

- Helpline Portal on applicant login page
- Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

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ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: ka.konappanaagrahara.tmc@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪುಸಕೋ/ತಾಶಾ/01/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24-04-2026

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ಪಾಸಸಂ/ನಾ.ಪ್ರ/362/ಆಡ್ಮಿನ್/2026-27

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NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-Tender No.	Tender Description:	Estimated Cost
CPC-67/2025-26	Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 2x500 MVA, 400/220kV Grid Sub-Station with SAS at Balasore (Baisinga) and 220 KV DC Transmission line from Existing 220/132/33KV GSS, Balasore to Proposed 400/220 kV GSS at Baisinga with 2 nos 220 kV bay extension at Balasore on Turnkey contract basis in e-tendering mode only. **Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 20.05.2026 upto 12:45 P.M.**	**Rs. 1,88,70,29,588/-**
CPC-01/2026-27	Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 2x200 MVA, 220/132 KV and 2x100 MVA, 220/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Panikoili with LILO arrangement from 220KV New Duburi-Paradeep DC line (Both Circuit) to proposed 220/132/33 kV Sub-Station at Panikoili and 132 kV LILO line from 132 kV Jajpur Road - Kendrapada D/C line (Both Circuit) to 220/132/33kV Grid S/s Panikoili on Turnkey basis. **Complete bidding documents are available on or after dated 24.04.2026 , 11:00 hrs.**	**Rs. 1,38,15,34,479/-**

Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** and **www.optcl.co.in**.

/optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha HIPR-07/2026-27

INBRIEF

KCR's daughter Kavitha to launch political party today

Kalvakuntla Kavitha, daughter of former Telangana Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao, is set to launch her political party, Telangana Prajavikas Samiti, on Saturday. The party's name echoes the historic Telangana Praja Samiti that spearheaded the 1969 Telangana agitation, and also resonates with the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, founded by her father. It was later renamed the BRS. She had been suspended from the BRS late in 2025.

Unidentified body found stuffed in gunny bag

A highly decomposed body of an unidentified individual, stuffed inside a gunny bag, was found in the northwestern part of Bengaluru on Friday morning, the police said. The body was discovered in a Bangalore Development Authority layout currently under development near Nelamangala. A preliminary police probe suggested that the body had been disposed of at least three days ago. An investigator in the case told *The Hindu* that the identity, cause of death, and time of the incident are yet to be established. An FIR has been filed under Section 103 of the BNS, which deals with murder.

Police seek details of social media account under UAPA

The Telangana police have sought information on a social media account, TeluguScrib invoking provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. According to a notice issued by Intelligence Department, authorities requested X Corp. to furnish details related to the handle including registration information and other activity data. The notice alleges that the account has been posting "highly objectionable and filthy language" that could incite hatred and unrest.

DKS Delhi tour: Congress MLAs keep their fingers crossed

The KPCC president met senior party leaders in national capital, but declined to divulge details

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

A file photo of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with his deputy D.K. Shivakumar.

As the camps of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar continue to huddle to shore up support amid speculation of a leadership change, party legislators on both sides remain on the edge, with leaders uncertain about the Congress high command's prevailing mood.

With the ruling dispensation set to complete three years in office in May, Mr. Shivakumar, who is also KPCC president, met senior Congress leaders in Delhi on Thursday but declined to divulge details of the meeting.

Meanwhile, loyalists of Mr. Siddaramaiah also held a meeting here amid speculation of changes in the leadership of both the government and the party after the byelection results in two Assembly constituencies in the State and Assembly elections in other States on May 4.

A handful of the Chief Minister's most trusted Ministers and party colleagues attended the meeting. He is learnt to have asked them to make all-out efforts to safeguard their positions in the State Cabinet in the event of a reshuffle or leadership change. Party sources said that he told loyalists he would step aside only if senior leader Rahul Gandhi personally asks him to do so.

Mr. Shivakumar, who has maintained that his Delhi visit was "not for leisure", is learnt to be pressing the high command to honour the reported assurance of a "rotational chief ministership" after the government completes its mid-term, as indicated during the formation of the government in May 2023.

Reshuffle demand

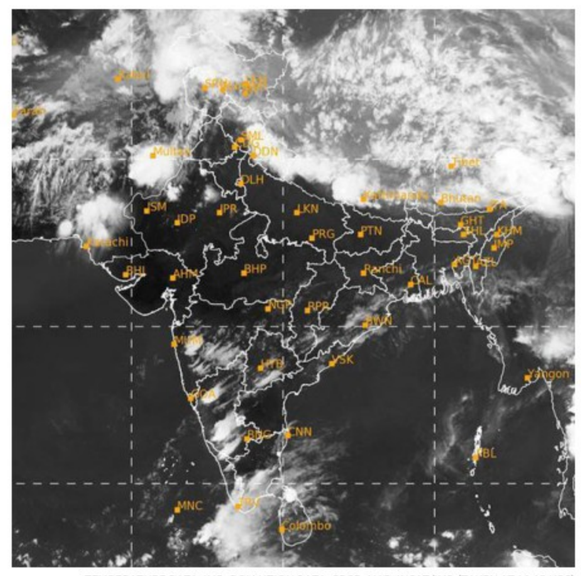
Amid this, Congress MLAs who have remained neutral between the two camps have urged the central leadership to allow the Chief Minister to undertake a Cabinet reshuffle to accommodate them, noting that many have been elected multiple times. This has not gone down well with Mr. Shivakumar, who recently cautioned legislators against speaking to the media during their visit to the national capital.

Meanwhile, Muslim leaders have raised separate concerns following action against two Congress MLCs – Naseer Ahmed and K. Abdul Jabbar – for alleged anti-party activities during the campaign for the Davangere bypoll. A cleric has reportedly warned that the community could withdraw support to the Congress if action against Muslim leaders is not revoked. Mr. Shivakumar, however, played down the remarks, stating that "they themselves have resigned".

The party high command is likely to summon both leaders to Delhi after the May 4 results to discuss the future political course in the State.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and West Bengal. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.1	27.0	Kozhikode	—	38.0	28.8
Ahmedabad	—	42.1	27.0	Kurnool	—	42.5	28.3
Aizawl	—	34.1	17.1	Lucknow	—	42.5	22.6
Allahabad	—	45.2	23.4	Madurai	—	40.0	27.1
Bengaluru	—	35.6	24.6	Mangaluru	—	33.7	26.8
Bhopal	—	41.6	26.0	Mumbai	—	35.6	26.1
Bhubaneswar	—	39.4	26.4	Mysuru	—	36.0	22.0
Chandigarh	—	41.0	23.0	New Delhi	—	41.9	24.5
Chennai	—	37.8	27.8	Patna	—	40.6	27.5
Coimbatore	—	37.8	25.6	Port Blair	—	32.5	25.6
Dehradun	—	38.8	22.0	Puducherry	—	35.3	27.3
Gangtok	—	24.1	14.2	Pune	—	41.1	27.5
Goa	—	35.0	26.6	Raipur	—	43.4	25.9
Guwahati	—	34.4	24.0	Ranchi	—	39.6	23.0
Hubballi	—	38.0	23.0	Shillong	—	25.0	14.6
Hyderabad	0.1	40.2	26.0	Shimla	—	30.5	20.0
Imphal	—	31.9	18.3	Srinagar	—	28.1	13.0
Jaipur	—	41.8	28.5	Thiruvananthapuram	14	35.4	26.5
Kochi	—	33.6	29.0	Tiruchi	—	38.1	26.6
Kohima	—	28.0	17.0	Vijayawada	—	38.8	27.2
Kolkata	—	37.6	28.2	Visakhapatnam	—	32.2	27.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.46	254	..5	66	150	
Bengaluru	...8	..10	39	206	211	
Chennai	...5	4	28	56	..42	
Delhi	.29	..99	40	269	354	
Hyderabad	.14	..14	37	73	..93	
Kolkata	...8	..36	31	63	..60	
Lucknow	.11	..56	46	184	133	
Mumbai	..—	..29	14	184	179	
Pune	.40	..58	59	59	..83	
Visakhapatnam	.47	..71	33	27	..97	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Meerut, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 332 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Two booked in connection with Bengaluru businessman's death; wife alleges harassment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sampigehalli police have filed an FIR against two people in connection with the case of a 45-year-old businessman who allegedly took his own life on Thursday near northeast Bengaluru.

The deceased has been identified as Vivekananda. His wife has alleged that two investors in his business had been harassing him to return their money, which could have led him to take the extreme step.

According to the police, Vivekananda had gone to an apartment complex that was recently completed. He entered the premises on the pretext of looking for a flat to buy.

An investigator in the case said that Vivekananda's belongings, including his mobile phone and wallet, were found on the 17th floor.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

No headway in talks; RTC strike continues

Syed Mohammed
HYDERABAD / KHAMMAM / KARIMNAGAR

Inconvenience for commuters in Telangana continued on Friday, with public buses off the road on the third day of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) workers' strike, even as employee union leaders and Ministers were engaged in talks to reach a consensus.

RTC sources described the nature of the meeting as 'cordial' and 'positive'. However, till around 9.30 p.m., there was no headway in talks and it was not clear whether the strike would be called off.

Much like the day before, the TGSRTC operated hired buses as well as electrical bus that are run on contract basis.

In order to ameliorate the situation and get parked buses back on the roads, the Corporation's management had called for applications from eligible persons for the role of temporary conductors and drivers. Officials, who did not wish to be identified, said that they received applications and were doing whatever they could to operate a certain number of buses.

The situation, they said, took a sombre, turn, and tension was palpable among both striking workers, as well as management with K. Shankar Goud, who had set himself ablaze, succumbing to injuries on Friday. TGSRTC staff appeared to be more cautious. Bus depots saw an increase in security with police keeping a close watch on the proceedings.

Speakers of various political parties and mass organisations demanded that the State government immediately concede the demands of the striking employees, including merger of TGSRTC with the government and implementation of PRCs.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to purchase the Property Site No.1767, formed by Karnataka State Judicial Dept. Employees House Building Co-op. Society Ltd., Bangalore, morefully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as Schedule Property, from its lawful owner, Sri. Narasimha Reddy, S/o V. Nagabhushana Reddy. The general public is hereby informed that any person/s having or asserting any right, title and interest or making any claim in respect of the Schedule Property may send their objections in writing with documentary proof to the undersigned within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication. If no claim or objection is received within the stipulated time, it shall be presumed that no one is having any right, title, claim or interest over the schedule property and our client will proceed with the completion of the sale in respect of the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.1767, in the layout in several survey numbers at Allalasandra, Chikkabommasandra & Jakkur Plantation Villages, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, formed by the Karnataka State Judicial Dept. Employees House Building Co-op. Society Ltd., Bangalore, as per layout plan approved by BDA, measuring East to West 60 Feet 3 inches and North to South 40 Feet, totally measuring 2412 Square Feet together with built up area measuring 3400 square feet, comprising of Ground and First Floor, having BBMP Khatha No.1887/1848/1767 and e-PID No.126122873 of Yelahanka Satellite Town Ward No.4, Bangalore and bounded on: **East by** : Site No.1740; **West by** : Road, **North by** : Site No.1766, South by : Site No.1768.

RPM Associates, Advocates
7, I Floor, Yamunabai Road,
Madhavanagar, Bangalore – 560001
Mob : 9980200300

ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ವಿ. ಸಿ. ಫಾರಂ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ 571 405 ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಭಾರತ
ಎಸ್. ವಿನಯ್ ಕುಮಾರ್, ಆಸ್ತಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಮೊ.ನಂ: 9448196321
ಮಿಂಚಂಚೆ : eouasmandya@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕೃವಿವಿಮ/ಆ.ಅ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/237/2026–27 ದಿ:23.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: NO.UASM/EO/TN-19/2026-27 Dt. 23.04.2026)
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮಂಡ್ಯದ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕೃಷಿ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕಾರೆಕೆರೆ ಹಾಸನದಲ್ಲಿ ತರಗತಿಗಳ ಮೊದಲನೆ ಮಹಡಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನೋಟಿಫಿಕೇಷನ್, ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ವಿವರಗಳು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ:– (1) ಪೂರ್ವ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ : 19.05.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ : 22.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ : 23.05.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ : 25.05.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಳಸಹಿದಾರರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಕೆಲಸದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಆಸ್ತಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ವಿ.ಸಿ.ಫಾರಂ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ–571405 ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 9448196321.

ಸಹಿ/–ಆಸ್ತಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸಸಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆವಿಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/071/2026–27

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public that my client is intending to purchase the schedule property belonging to Sri.Ajit Isaac, Son of Sri.A A Ithapiri, Aged about 58 years, Residing at No 862B, 13th Main Road, 3rd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India – 560034.;

Any, person, having any claim over the schedule property claiming through the predecessors in title or any other person, may lodge their objections or claims, in writing with all supporting documentary evidence by speed post with regard to such claim with the undersigned within 15 (fifteen) days hereof, failing which my client/s will proceed to conclude the Sale Transaction. Any claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by my client/s;

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of entire property bearing Municipal No.242 (earlier site bearing BDA No.242), situated at Fourth Cross, Third Main Road, First Block Koramangala, Bangalore, within the limits and administration of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, Corporation Ward No.151-Koramangala (old ward No.68), PID No.68-1-242, EPID No:2240312353, together with structures standing thereon and bounded on the:

East by : Road;
West by : Site bearing BDA No.241;
North by : Road;
South by : Site bearing BDA No.215;
MEASURING:
East to West : (23.8+17.2)/2 mtrs.;
North to South : 18.4 mtrs.;
In all ad-measuring 377.2 sq.mtrs.

N S RACHANA, N C JANARDHAN
Advocates
RACHANA LAW ASSOCIATES
"Lakshmideep", I Floor, No. 2980,
17th Cross, Banashankari II Stage,
Bangalore-560 070
PH : 9731810810 / 9886284325
Dt: 24-04-2026

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ನೊಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:KOL-S243-2012-13 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15–03–2013
Website: www.kimskoppal.com email: directorkimskoppal@gmail.com
Office : 08539 225522 Office : 08539-225523

No:KIMS/Koppal/Re-Tender/2025-26/80 Date:24/04/2026

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Re-Tender is invited for Establishment of Audiometry Double Room & Bera Room to E.N.T Department And Implementation and avail consultation services of Ab-Ark scheme at District Teaching Hospital KIMS Koppal for 01 Year under two cover Bid system as per KTPP Act 1999 rule 2000 KPPP portal of Government of Karnataka. Tender Approximate Cost E.N.T: 25.96 Lakhs, EMD Rs. 52,000/- and Ab-Ark: 54.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs.1,08,000/-
1) Tender documents may download from the **28/04/2026** from 05.30 PM 2) Last Date for Submission of Tender **13/05/2026** up to 05.30 PM

Further information may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and this office web-site www.kimskoppal.kar.nic.in

Sd/-Director, KIMS Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/50/KSMCA/2026-27

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. ECN-TRD-04-2026
Dated : 18-04-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Electrification of Proposed Construction of New Crossing station at SRAVANUR with structures /foundation suitable for 2x25kv OHE.	Rs. 2,56,82,475.13

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 14-05-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution-II (Construction) Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/52/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice

Online tender is invited for the following works:

Tender No.	**SA_A_RS_ED_OT_26_27_3, Dated: 22-04-2026**
Description of Work	Works contract for Repair / reconditioning of Auxiliary Motors of Three Phase electric locomotives available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.
Tender No.	**SA_A_RS_ED_OT_26_27_4, Dated: 22-04-2026**
Description of Work	Works Contract for Trench Plate opening and blowing of trenches, HT compartments / Machine Room and Cabs, closing the trench plate and unloading and loading of batteries, SL Covers, Smoothing Reactors etc. in electric locomotive available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.
Tender No.	**SA_A_RS_ED_OT_26_27_5, Dated: 22-04-2026**
Description of Work	Works Contract for Disconnection, Removal, Unloading & Loading, Fixing and connection of equipment's (J1, J2, CTF1, Servomotors of CTF 2, 3, Line contactors, shunting contactors, C145 & Cab Fans) of electric locomotive available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

DEE/RS/ED
For Sr.DEE/RS/ED

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA
KALYAN KARNATAKA REGION DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Opp. Aiwan-E-Shahi Kalaburagi-585102, Karnataka
Phone No: 08472-256767, Fax No: 08472-227527, hkadbgulb@gmail.com

No. KKRDB/TECH/3rd party/2025-26 Date:23/04/2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement System)

The Secretary, KKRDB, Kalaburagi hereby invites separate Technical and Financial Bids for **"Empanelment of Third Party Consultants for Quality Assurance Audit and Control of Development works funded by KKRDB in Bellary &Vijayanagar Districts".**Through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka, Firms willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned e-procurement portal.

The tender document with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. **EMD is Rs.8,00,000/- Amount put to tender Rs. 5,35,00,000/-**
Event : Downloading of RFP from E-Portal starts from : Date 23/04/2026, Last Date and Time for Submitting Queries : 29/04/2026 up to 5:30 pm, Date and Time of Pre-Bid Meeting (Online) : 30/04/2026 at 11:30 am, Last Date for receipt of Technical and Financial Proposals : 08/05/2026 till 5.00 pm, Date of Opening of Technical Proposal : 11/05/2026 at 10.30am, Date of Opening of Financial Proposal : 12/05/2026 at 11.00 am

Sd/- Deputy Secretary
Kalyan Karnataka Region, Development Board,
Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/72/
Deshpande Publicity/2026-27

Govt.of Karnataka
Government General Hospital Hospet

No/ghh/Tender/834/2024-25 Date:21.04.2026

Publication of e-tender

Tender are invited through e-procurement in Two cover type for the recruitment of 10 Group "D" and 10 Non-Clinical vacancies Total 20 post in Govt. Genral Hospital, Hospet for the year 2026-27. Interested and eligible tenderers are requested to submit tender through e-procurement platform within the stipulated time.
e-Tender No.: **GHH/TENDER/834 /2025-26.** E-Procurement Tender No: **DHFWS/2025-26/SE2085 CALL-2.** Commencement of downloading of e-Tender forms from website: **http:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in Date: 22-04-2026 to 06-05-2026 evening @ 04.30 p.m.** Last Date for seeking clarification if any: **Date:05-05-2026 up to 11:00 am.** Last date for uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform: **Date:06-05-2026 evening @ 04.30 P.M Date,** Time & Venue of Opening of Tenders: **Date:08-05-2026 @ 11.30 a.m in the office of the Surgeon, Govt. General Hospital, Hospet through e-procument platform.** EMD: **Rs.1,20,000/-.** ANNUAL TENDER AMOUNT: **Rs.60,00,000/-**

Tenderers registered in eprocurement can get information about tender processing fee, EMD, tender form etc., through the Karnataka Government e-procurement portal website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Surgeon Govt. General Hospital Hospet.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/43

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to enter into joint development transaction with respect to the Schedule Property with its owners **M/s. Greenport Agro Food Park Pvt. Ltd.** The Owner represents that they are the absolute owner of the Schedule Property and apart from them there are no other person/s, having any right, title or claim over the Schedule Property and the Schedule Property is not mortgaged, or encumbered in any manner. The Owners represent that they have not entered into any MoU, Agreement of Sale or any sort of arrangement with any other person/s, with respect to the Schedule Property or part thereof. If any person/s having objection/s or claims may with documentary evidence lodge their objection/claims within 14 (Fourteen) days from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, my client shall proceed with the transaction with respect to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that open land admeasuring **24.46** acres (Converted -Non-Agriculture) situated in Kodur village, Chilamathur Mandal, Sri Satya Sai district, Andhra Pradesh with following particulars and survey numbers: -

Survey. No	839-2	839-4	840-1
Acres. Cents	5	5.02	2.5
840-2	**840-3**	**843-3A**	**Total**
4.94	5	2	24.46

And bounded on:
East by : NH-44 Road
West by : Other Lands in koduru village
North by : land in Sy.No.843 of Kodur Village
South by : Land in Sy.No.844-1

H M Harsha
UniLegal - Advocates and Attorneys
No.511, Ground Floor, 9th Cross,
6th Main, Sadashivanagar,
Bangalore - 560 080
Phone: +91 98443-90581
e-mail: harsha@unilegal.in
Bangalore Date: 24-04-2026

Fire and sound

Safe alternatives to conventional pyrotechnics are essential

Safety is often sacrificed at the altar of faith. On April 21, a series of powerful explosions tore through a makeshift fireworks assembly unit at Mundathikode on the outskirts of Kerala's Thrissur city, causing death and devastation. Unofficial estimates put the death toll at 15; the blasts left over 24 injured, many grievously, and damaged some 50 houses in the vicinity. An unspecified number of workers were handling firecrackers stocked across multiple sheds for a customary sample fireworks display ahead of the annual Thrissur Pooram, culminating in a competitive fireworks display organised by the Thiruvambady and Paramekkavu temple authorities. The State and Centre announced compensation for victims' families and declared it a State-specific disaster to speed up relief. Multiple inquiries, including a judicial commission led by a former High Court judge, were launched to unearth any safety violations and regulatory lapses. A scaled-down version of the Pooram pageantry will be held on April 26 in view of 'public sentiments'.

The blasts, following a similar explosion at a Virudhunagar fireworks factory in Tamil Nadu, have once again exposed gaps in enforcing safety and licensing norms in India's pyrotechnic industry. Evidently, the stringent regulatory measures stipulated by the Judicial Commission after the 2016 Puttingal temple fireworks accident – covering licensing, materials, layout, and conduct of displays – have been progressively sidelined during Kerala's summer festival season. Eyewitness accounts at Mundathikode suggest woefully inadequate compliance with safety norms. Explosive experts have hinted at the absence of a safe distance between sheds storing gunpowder and abrasion-sensitive chemicals, the stockpiling of excess quantities of flash powder, the lack of safety gear and firefighting equipment, the employment of untrained workers, the likely use of banned chemicals, and lax enforcement – all together forming the perfect recipe for disaster. Religious festivals such as the Thrissur Pooram have lately been entangled in vote-bank politics, dissuading the authorities from enforcing safety measures around hazardous activities such as fireworks displays and elephant parades. 'Loudness' often defines the success of competitive fireworks displays, and attempts to do away with high-decibel fireworks citing the safety of patients, pregnant women, and infants find no popular support. The Mundathikode tragedy is a sobering reminder of the human cost of high-risk festivities, and should hasten the adoption of safer modern alternatives to conventional pyrotechnics, such as cold spark technology.

Incremental change

Emissions can be significantly curbed only through electrification

In mid-April, news broke that India's automakers had unanimously agreed to a new fuel efficiency and emissions reduction target proposed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), the sector's standards-setting body. This follows a controversy late last year, driven largely by differences between Maruti Suzuki – which commands an overwhelming share of the small-car segment – and other manufacturers. The earlier proposal had effectively created a carve-out for small cars, a segment that accounts for about 14%-15% of passenger vehicle sales, delaying the shift to cleaner fuels and technologies. Larger carmakers, meanwhile, were required to meet more stringent targets, putting them at a relative disadvantage in terms of pricing and investment. While this triggered a relook at the proposed emissions norms, what has emerged is only marginally better. In fact, some provisions appear counterproductive to reducing emissions and decarbonising the transport sector – India's third-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. At first glance, the headline reduction in Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) targets – from about 113 grams of CO_2 per kilometre under CAFE-II to 77 g/km by 2031-32 under CAFE-III – appears ambitious. The new cycle is proposed to run from April 2027 to March 2032. However, the framework's flexible design may weaken compliance and slow the urgent transition to cleaner technologies, especially electrification.

To be sure, the explicit carve-out for small cars has been removed, but it has been replaced by several alternative compliance pathways. These include credits for higher ethanol blending (from E20 to E85-compatible vehicles) and for incremental efficiency technologies such as start-stop systems, regenerative braking, and tyre pressure monitoring systems. While useful, these are marginal improvements that allow manufacturers to meet targets without a structural shift to electric mobility. The BEE has also proposed super-credits, where certain technologies count multiple times towards compliance – for instance, a battery electric vehicle could count as three vehicles. Combined with credit banking and trading, this creates a system in which manufacturers with an early technological lead can accumulate surplus credits and sell them to laggards. Further, compliance is to be assessed over three-year blocks rather than annually, allowing manufacturers to average performance over time. This reduces immediate pressure and weakens the signalling effect that regulations are meant to provide. At a time of fossil fuel volatility, this policy appears too weak to drive meaningful change in a sector that is central to climate mitigation, India's energy security, and macroeconomic stability. Without sharper incentives, CAFE-III risks becoming a framework that manages emissions on paper rather than transforming them in practice.

The moral eclipse of politics in the modern age

Shelley Walia

Taught cultural and literary theory at Panjab University Chandigarh

When Aristotle grounded politics in ethics, he was diagnosing a structural condition of legitimacy far beyond a mere moral statement. The polis, in his conception, exists not merely to secure bare life but also to enable a flourishing civil society where human potential can be realised. Divorce political authority from this ethical telos, and it collapses into an organised system of domination.

The Pope-Trump issue

It is precisely this ethical stripping away that defines our present political condition. When Pope Leo XIV invokes the Gospels to call for restraint, peace, or an end to war, his appeals are often received not as profound ethical reflection but as naive political interference. The discomfort that the Pope's moral interventions seemed to provoke in U.S. President Donald Trump found a strange and telling afterlife in the viral meme portraying Mr. Trump as Christ – a gesture that feels less like a real satire and more like a quick defensive move to hide his vulnerability.

Mr. Trump's other post, where he puts himself in proximity with Jesus Christ, seeks spiritual endorsement, camouflaging authority in sacred language so as to appear beyond criticism. The joke, in its grotesque excess, betrays an unease with moral authority itself, as if ethical critique must be trivialised, distorted, or memed into oblivion to keep it under check. What it ultimately hints at is a deeper cultural anxiety: in the absence of genuine moral legitimacy, naked power begins to crave an aura of inviolability even at the cost of lampooning the very transcendent values it dislodges and undermines.

The disjunction between moral authority and political self-presentation becomes particularly stark in Mr. Trump's public life, which has been shadowed by multiple allegations of sexual misconduct that gained prominence during the #Me Too movement, as well as by his documented social association with sex-criminal financier Jeffrey Epstein, which continues to invite scrutiny. Moreover, his remarks about his daughter, Ivanka Trump, were widely criticised as inappropriate. These are not incidental controversies but part of a broader pattern that complicates any claim to moral seriousness, making attempts to cloak political authority in the language or imagery of spiritual virtue not only incongruous but also deeply revealing of the anxieties they seek to conceal.

On a broader question of morality, when it is deliberately excluded from the political sphere, it is replaced by an altogether different ethic, grounded in the politics of expediency and a struggle framed as absolute good versus evil. It simply replaces one moral framework with another, often a more insidious one. Across democratic societies today, this substitution is increasingly visible in the rhetoric that hypocritically denounces elitism while tacitly endorsing the concentration of wealth and power in fewer hands. The problem, then, is not that morality has vanished from politics but that it has become incoherent, splintered into rival visions that clash without resolution.

Pope Leo XIV's anti-war stance is a reminder that politics was never meant to be morally silent or neutral

War and a dehumanisation

The most acute manifestation of politics' moral collapse is war, which functions as both a geopolitical event and an epistemic and ethical failure – a profound breakdown in the capacity to imagine the other as a bearer of irreducible human dignity. Its precondition is dehumanisation, the subtle mutilation of ideas that renders mass destruction not only permissible but necessary.

We are reminded of this in the great ethical traditions of political thought that have repeatedly attempted to anchor power within the bounds of justice. John Rawls's "theory of justice" as fairness stands as one such monumental effort. His famous "veil of ignorance" thought experiment asks us to imagine political principles chosen without foreknowledge of our own position in society, be it rich or poor, powerful or marginalised. A just society, Rawls suggests, can only emerge when we deliberately suspend the privileges of identity, circumstance, and advantage, reasoning as equals behind the veil.

If Rawls diagnoses the absence of justice in institutional design, Bertrand Russell offers a more unsettling anthropological diagnosis. Human beings, he argued, are fundamentally driven by acquisitiveness, rivalry, vanity, and an insatiable desire for power. These primal impulses, when unrestrained by robust ethical norms and traditions, inevitably produce precisely the kind of political order we now inhabit.

History offers repeated and grim confirmation of this pattern. The assassination of Julius Caesar, often romantically framed as a noble defence of republican liberty against tyranny, also marks a pivotal moment when moral clarity was ruthlessly subordinated to political calculation. The conspirators justified their violence in the lofty name of freedom and the common good, yet the result was neither renewal nor stability, but a cascade of civil war and imperial consolidation.

Twentieth century history deepens this rupture to apocalyptic depths. The firebombing of Dresden and the atomic destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in the 1940s, were staggering military events with moral catastrophes of unprecedented scale. They revealed the horrifying extent to which modern industrialised states can rationalise mass civilian deaths through the antiseptic language of strategic necessity and wartime pragmatism. It is tempting to consign such logics to the dustbin of history, a relic of a more barbaric age. However, the protracted wars in Gaza and Ukraine, alongside escalating tensions involving Iran and Lebanon, continue to demonstrate how effortlessly political language sanitises unimaginable suffering, framing it as collateral or inevitable. What is absent across these contexts is not raw intelligence or tactical acumen but empathy or the vital capacity to recognise the other as fully human, worthy of the same moral consideration we claim for ourselves.

Understandably, politics often operates at a deliberate distance from its own human consequences, and nowhere is this more evident than in the evolving ethics of war itself. In the Hellenic imagination, whether in the mythic world of Homer's *The Iliad* or the historical memory of the Peloponnesian War (431 to 404 BCE), combat, however brutal and unforgiving, retained a residual moral proximity. Warriors confronted one another face to face, recognising, however fleetingly, the humanity, valour, and shared suffering of the enemy. War still permitted rare moments of ethical interruption, where grief, supplication, or mutual respect could unsettle the cycle of violence. By stark contrast, modern warfare, as Jean Baudrillard provocatively argued in *The Gulf War Did Not Take Place*, is conducted at such technological, psychological, and symbolic remove that the enemy vanishes into pure abstraction. Bombs dropped from 30,000 feet do not encounter warm human bodies, bleeding and pleading, but disembodied data points and cold statistics on screens.

Bring back the ethics in politics

The challenge, therefore, is not to moralise politics in some superficial sense, but to reconstitute its deepest ethical foundations. This calls for an education oriented toward critical thought and moral imagination rather than rote obedience, as well as a public sphere that privileges truth and deliberation over spectacle and viral outrage. More importantly, it also requires a deliberate return to those intellectual traditions that steadfastly refused the false separation of ethics from politics.

The Pope's interventions, then, should not be dismissed as anachronistic moralism out of step with a cynical age. His anti-war stand serves as a vital reminder that politics was never meant to be morally silent or neutral. To reject that reminder is to accept a diminished, hollow conception of politics in which power becomes its own justification and ethics an optional, ornamental supplement. The question, then, is not whether morality should enter politics. It is whether politics can survive without it.

The crisis of urban electoral disenfranchisement

Tikender Singh Panwar

Author, urban practitioner, former Deputy Mayor, Shimla, and Member, Kerala Urban Commission

Electoral system 'reforms' risk undermining universal adult franchise in India's cities

The framer of the Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, while presenting the Constitution, stated: "From one person, one vote, it should lead to one person, one economic unit." However, this spirit has not materialised and the divide amongst people has widened.

In the growing marginalisation of large sections of the population, including the poor, migrants, and ethnic, social, and religious minorities, the first stepping stone in this set of structural tools is the right to adult franchise.

Universal adult urban franchise

It may sound uncomfortable, but the fact of the matter is that over the last few decades, the urban population has been subject to systematic disenfranchisement.

The debate over the recent Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in contemporary times serves to reinforce and further substantiate the marginalisation and continuing disenfranchisement of urban voters.

Demography and urban voter mismatch

S. NO.	NAME OF CITY	POPULATION (IN LAKH) 2011	POPULATION (IN LAKH) 2026	ELECTORS IN 2026
1	Shimla	1.69	2.52	55,385 (21% voters)
2	Chandigarh	10.54	12.93	6,33,475 (48.9% voters)
3	Delhi (NCT)	110.07	226.74	145 lakh (63% voters)
4	Chennai	46.46	69.99	28.30 lakh (40% voters)
5	Bengaluru	84.4	128	85 lakh (66.4% voters)
6	Kolkata	44.97	67.7	36.5 lakh (53.9% voters)
7	Guwahati	9.62	14	9.2 lakh (65% voters)
8	Bhopal	17.9	27	5.39 lakh (20% voters)
9	Patna	16.8	30	12.7 lakh (42% voters)
10	Lucknow	28.15	42	28 lakh (66% voters)

Former Chief Election Commissioner of India, T.N. Seshan held that "an address did not mean a luxury home, but merely a place where the person resided, even if that was under a tree or on the pavement, ensuring they had the right to vote". The journey of the right to adult franchise has unfortunately reached a point where people are being omitted from the voter list through various exclusionary processes and bureaucratic hurdles.

In urban India, the population under 18 years of age is approximately in the mean of 28%. If this percentage is added to the figures in the table, it shows that a huge number of people are excluded from the list of eligible voters. Most of those living in slums and informal settlements are also among the disenfranchised. It is no great surprise that, according to the World Bank, around 40% of India's urban population currently lives in slums.

Another major challenge to the right to adult franchise is the compromised secrecy of the electoral process. In the current electronic voting machine system, the booth-wise revelation of votes poses a serious challenge to the confidential nature of the franchise. In small towns, a booth comprises only a few hundred votes, and the voting patterns of different demographic groups can be easily inferred by the system and political parties.

The exclusion of the urban poor

Why will SIR hit the urban poor the most? Dalits, marginalised sections, and ethnic and religious minorities, apart from the economically poor and unorganised sector workers, were among the groups with the highest rates of deletion in urban India – a process that is still ongoing. This represents a dual burden for these sections: on one hand, they are unable to get themselves registered as voters, and on the other, those who were already registered are now facing a high incidence of deletions.

Let us take the example of a few cities where the largest deletions have taken place. Patna in Bihar recorded very high deletions, with 16.5 lakh names removed from the draft rolls. Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh saw deletions of around 36.67%, driven by the high mobility of its urban and unorganised workforce. Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh witnessed 30.88% voter deletions after the SIR. Purnia in Bihar saw 2.73 lakh voters deleted from the rolls. Kanpur, the well-known industrial town in Uttar Pradesh, witnessed 25.62% of names marked for removal, mainly among unorganised sector workers. In Kolkata, in one particular locality, Gulshan Colony, 90% of voters were found missing. In Mumbai, under the 2025 SIR, it is estimated that 14 lakh names were deleted, and around 50% of residents living in informal housing were registered.

It is very evident that the SIR process of enumeration is highly exclusive and bureaucratic controlled. Instead of promoting maximum outreach, this process appears to dissuade the urban poor from even registering as voters. In a country such as India, where migration is one of the defining features of urbanisation, producing evidence of voter registration from 2002/2005 poses a significant challenge.

Selective filtration

The struggle for the urban right to adult franchise is a long one; however, with SIR, it has taken two steps back. SIR is not just an administrative exercise but a systematic attack on the democratic base. Its reliance on rigid documentation, and proof of stable residence, which is a matter of considerable concern in urban India, leads to the large-scale deletion of working-class populations. There is a selective filtration of the electorate, where those who do not suit the ruling dispensation or are perceived as a potential threat to capital investment are excluded.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Higher judiciary judges

From a plain reading of Article 124 (relating to the Supreme Court of India) and Article 217 (relating to High Court judges), it is clear that judges are free to resign under their own hand to secure judicial independence, and no acceptance by the President of India is necessary. It had an exalted purpose for situations like when Justice H.R. Khanna of the Supreme Court resigned when he was superseded for chief justiceship after his famous dissenting note in the ADM Jabalpur case. It was not intended to be used as an escape route by judges such as Justice Yashwant Varma of the Delhi High Court, in whose bungalow burnt currency notes were found and against whom impeachment proceedings had been initiated. A similar walkaway option rightly does not exist even for high-ranking government officers. A suitable constitutional amendment will reduce the much-talked-about corruption in the judiciary.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

NEET SS Counselling 2026

I am writing to highlight the challenges faced by candidates in the NEET SS Counselling 2026 conducted by the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC). As per the MCC's earlier schedule, key counselling activities — including Round 2 — were to progress in early April, around April 7. However, the process has seen repeated and indefinite extensions — especially in choice filling. Many NEET SS aspirants had made life-altering decisions based on the official schedule. A number of them resigned from senior residency posts or other jobs expecting timely counselling and seat allotment. They now face professional and financial uncertainty about their placement. The lack of transparency and repeated open-ended extensions have heightened student anxiety. The situation is further complicated by reports of legal proceedings affecting the counselling process, without clear official communication. Given the importance of super-specialty training in strengthening India's health-care system, such administrative unpredictability may also have broader implications for health-care delivery.

Dr. Rojin Mathew Sebastian,
Changanacherry, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Police sniffer dogs assist in the search for human remains at the firecracker unit blast site at Mundathikode in Thrissur. THULASI KAKKAT

The spark that turned fatal in Mundathikode

On April 21, a deadly explosion at a fireworks unit at Mundathikode claimed at least 12 lives, injured more than 24, and damaged at least 50 houses nearby. The unit was set amid vast paddy fields and housed multiple sheds storing large quantities of explosive materials. Investigations are under way. **Mini Muringatheri** and **Aathira Haridas** report on the latest tragedy in a hazardous trade where violations are common

The afternoon of April 21 had all the warmth of a festival day. At Seljo Francis' home at Mundathikode, about 16 kilometres from Thrissur, laughter spilled into the courtyard as nearly three dozen relatives and friends gathered for the annual feast of St. John the Evangelist, Kuttamkulam. After lunch, some of the people prepared to leave, while others got ready to join the afternoon church procession.

Suddenly, a deafening roar ripped through the air and Francis' house shook violently. "Windowpanes shattered in an instant, spraying glass across the rooms," recalls Francis. "Something slammed onto the terrace above. A window frame tore loose and crashed down. For a moment, no one understood what was happening."

"We grabbed the children and rushed into the open," says Steffy, his sister. Barely 150 metres away, across the paddy fields, they saw that a fireworks unit preparing materials for the annual Thrissur Pooram festival had turned into a towering fireball. The sky was thick with black smoke and more explosions followed, Steffy recalls.

A piece of debris struck Francis's mother on the shoulder, while she ran for safety. Shards of glass cut into his daughter Saira. In front of the house, sparks ignited dry grass and shrubs where cars had been parked. As Francis rushed to move a vehicle, he stopped abruptly, frozen by the sight of something lying near it. "A human body part, hurled from the blast," he recalls.

Francis tried to run towards the site, to the men he knew and saw often, including Mundathikode Satheesh, the licence holder. But the explosions would not stop.

As he hesitated, another projectile struck his terrace and a bed caught fire. A powerful burst tore through the upper floor. In seconds, around 50 houses in the area were severely damaged.

> Window panes shattered in an instant. Something slammed onto the terrace above. A window frame tore loose and crashed down. No one understood what was happening.
>
> **SELJO FRANCIS**
> Resident, Mundathikode

tered the stillness. Haridasan, who lives nearby, says, "It was a massive sound. When I looked, the sheds were already burning. Bodies were scattered everywhere. I could not bear the sight. I immediately alerted fire and rescue services."

Rescue operations were fraught with danger. Residents of the area say continuous explosions – three major blasts followed by a series of smaller ones – kept teams at bay. The unit's location, deep inside fields with limited access, slowed response. Earthmovers had to clear pathways before emergency vehicles could reach the site.

When the fire services finally entered about an hour later, they saw rows of sheds engulfed in flames, body parts scattered across fields, and injured workers struggling amid the wreckage. Police estimate that 35-37 people may have been present at the site when the tragedy occurred.

The scale of the disaster soon became clear. Twelve people were officially declared dead and three remain missing. More than 24 people are injured: about half of them are undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College Hospital in Thrissur, while others remain in private hospitals. The police have collected 28 body parts from the site.

Satheesh succumbed to burn injuries in hospital. His friends say he had recently spoken about stepping away from the hazardous trade.

Passion that turned fatal

Manikandan, Giri, and Abhijith, residents of the neighbouring Kammath and Chelat lanes at Kottappuram, near Thrissur, shared a love for fireworks, according to their neighbour, Sivanandan. Wherever there was a pyro-technique display, they would be there.

Manikandan was a member of the Thiruvambady temple festival committee and Satheesh was their close friend. Drawn by the excitement of preparations, the trio had visited the unit that day along with some friends.

After the disaster, Manikandan's body was identified and cremated. A part of Giri's body was found in the field later and the family has identified it. Abhijith, however, has been missing since the blast.

For Manikandan's friends, the moment of identification was haunting. His face and body had been severely damaged. But there were signs that remained – the ear stud he always wore and the muscular build shaped by years of training. A former "Mr Thrissur" and fitness trainer, Manikandan was known for his physique as much as his energy.

"I have been searching for Abhijith among the body parts at the mortuary since Tuesday," says his cousin Haridas, a fitness trainer with the Thrissur District Sports Council. "He is missing; he is not among the injured."

The charred remains of the fireworks unit after the blast. K.K. NAJEEB

The man behind the fireworks

For years, Satheesh has been a familiar name among fireworks enthusiasts in Kerala. A technician known for crafting spectacular displays, he had led fireworks preparations for the Thiruvambady temple, one of the main participants of Thrissur Pooram, for over a decade. The trade, begun alongside his father Mani, had grown into a full-fledged operation.

For nearly 15 years, Satheesh ran the fireworks unit at Mundathikode. Set amid the vast Kuttamkulam paddy fields, the unit spread across roughly 2.5 acres and housed multiple sheds storing large quantities of explosive materials. On April 21, at around 3.30 p.m., workers had just resumed duties after lunch, racing against time to prepare fireworks for the Thrissur Pooram.

That is when a thunderous explosion shat-

The science of devastation

At the mortuary, the scale of destruction is evident. Dr. Hithesh Shankar, forensic surgeon at the Thrissur Medical College, says, "Many bodies were charred beyond recognition. Identification had to rely on rings, earrings, dental patterns, even medical implants. The blast impact was severe. It is a stark reminder of how fragile human life is." DNA testing is now central to identifying the remaining victims.

The day after the incident, an uneasy calm had settled over the morgue of the Government Medical College Hospital, Thrissur. Officials kept count of the bodies being handed over to the relatives, police officers supervised things, and relatives sat in silence.

At 9:30 a.m., a couple of morgue staff walked out carrying a collapsed, white bundle, the bodily remains of Manikandan. Her sister Suma accompanied the body, screaming as it was being ushered into the ambulance.

As the ambulance pulled away from the morgue, another took its place within minutes. Soon, another body was brought out, the fifth to be handed over after the autopsy. The body was that of another Manikandan, a 33-year-old from Kottappuram, near Thrissur. So far, nine bodies have been handed over to relatives and one body remains in the morgue, yet to be identified.

"One body is under dispute because another family had also laid claim to it," says a revenue staff member. "The DNA tests will help confirm the identity. Relatives of the missing personnel will be arriving so that their blood samples can be obtained. This will be matched with the body and the dismembered body parts that have been collected from the site."

Balakrishnan, who was sitting in distress, was ready to give his DNA sample to identify whether any of the bodies at the morgue were that of his missing brother, Suresh.

Hari, another relative, says the family is sure that Suresh went to the fireworks unit. Showing a video grab that places Suresh at the site, he says they are not able to locate him after having gone through the bodies at the morgue. "When we heard about the blast we called him. But we couldn't get through. All we saw was his bike," Hari says.

Sivadas G., a neighbour and a friend of Suresh, says the family has never supported his work.

T.A. Sathyan, another relative, recounts a horrific brush with death Suresh had a few years ago. "This happened when an explosion occurred at a firework unit he was working at. But at that time, he wasn't at the location and escaped. Even that close call didn't unnerve him," he says.

> Many bodies were charred beyond recognition. Identification had to rely on rings, earrings, dental patterns, even medical implants. The blast impact was severe.
>
> **DR. HITHESH SHANKAR**
> Forensic surgeon, Thrissur Medical College

P.R. Jayaprakash, a relative of Vishnu Vinod who went missing, says Vinod went to the site along with four of his friends to check out the unit. "Two of them worked there. They used to be a gang of friends who would meet in front of the Vadakkumnathan temple and take part in the festivities," he recalls.

Jayaprakash says except one friend, who left immediately, the others may have succumbed to injuries. "The body of one of his friends was received today. Three others are missing," he says.

Edappal panchayat member Vijayan Kodambath, who was present at the morgue to take home the body of one of the workers who died in the explosion, asks how and when bursting fireworks became a part of Indian culture.

"China discovered gunpowder. How did it become part of our culture and temple festivals? What is the joy in watching something that disappears like lightning in the sky or listening to the thunderous blast," he asks. Kodambath says that it is time fireworks are banned.

A search through ashes

Days after the blast, the search for the missing continues. Police, forensic teams, and cadaver dogs have been combing the vast paddy fields and surrounding areas.

Thrissur City Police Commissioner Nakul Rajendra Deshmukh says teams have recovered body parts, around 200-300 kg of unexploded explosives, and parts of nearly 10 mobile phones from the site. "These will be sent for DNA examination. The explosives will be safely neutralised," he says.

Thrissur Revenue Divisional Officer R. Manoj, who is leading the magisterial inquiry, says forensic analysis is under way to determine the reason for the blast and whether prohibited materials were used. "Most materials from the site have been cleared, and nearby water bodies have also been examined," he says.

Experts say the tragedy is part of a pattern. R. Venugopal, former Joint Chief Controller of Explosives at the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), points to systemic violations. "Fireworks are often manufactured in unauthorised premises without proper access for fire and rescue vehicles or ambulances," he says. "Under the law, such materials must be handled only in licensed facilities with approved layouts, safety distances, and strict limits."

Open fields are not designed for such operations, he adds. "In many cases, friction caused by impurities like sand can trigger sparks. The intensity of this explosion suggests either excessive storage or even the possible use of prohibited chemicals such as potassium chlorate," he says.

A tradition under scrutiny

The Mundathikode tragedy has reignited a long-standing debate: should firework displays continue as they are?

Social scientist Dr. Rajan Gurukkal has called for a gradual shift away from hazardous fireworks. "Today, there are visually appealing, sustainable, and risk-free alternatives," he says. "The youth may prefer them over these dangerous displays." He suggests that trained community groups could manage modern light-based installations as safer alternatives.

The Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad, a progressive people's science movement, has demanded a complete ban on explosive fireworks, arguing that laws already exist but are routinely ignored. In a strongly worded statement, the organisation said such accidents are not caused by a lack of laws, but by the routine violation of existing safety norms and compromises made under pressure.

It pointed out that the manufacture, storage, and transport of explosives require strict licensing under PESO, and are governed by provisions of the Explosives Act, 1884, and Rules, 2008. It also noted that the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 prohibit the use of sound-emitting fireworks between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. However, these regulations, it said, remain largely on paper and are frequently flouted.

"Each such accident claims the lives of poor workers and unsuspecting bystanders. Mourning, compensation, and inquiry commissions alone are not enough. What is needed is a decisive and effective approach to prevent such disasters," the statement said.

In neighbouring Tamil Nadu, just days earlier, 23 people lost their lives in an explosion at the Vanaja Fireworks Unit in Kattanarpatti near Virudhunagar. A second explosion at the unit injured 17, including six policemen and four firemen.

The Kerala tragedy has already reshaped this year's Thrissur Pooram. Authorities have decided to conduct the festival without fireworks. The iconic Kudamattam (exchange of colourful parasols) will be scaled down to 15 minutes with fewer umbrellas. Major rituals such as Ilanjithara Melam and Madathil Varavu will continue, with 15 elephants each. The decision was taken at a meeting at the Thrissur Collectorate.

"Each fireworks accident claims the lives of many hapless workers and spectators," says Dr. Gurukkal. "The massive pollution it creates causes many to fall ill. Instead of routine condolences and inquiry commissions, there should be some effective steps to prevent such tragedies. How many more warnings will it take before we shift to a risk-free form of celebration?"

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From Page One

Israel extends fragile ceasefire with Lebanon

A Hezbollah lawmaker said the extension of the truce was meaningless as long as Israel continued its "hostile actions". Israel is continuing "assassinations, shelling and gunfire and its destructive campaign against Lebanese border villages and towns", said Ali Fayyad, member of the Loyalty to Resistance parliamentary bloc. "In practice, this pushes the Lebanese side towards adhering to the ceasefire, while imposing no obligations, not even minimal ones, on the Israeli side. This is something the resistance [Hezbollah] cannot accept. On the contrary, it affirms its rejection of it and its determination to confront it," he said, according to Hezbollah's Al Manar TV.

On Friday, Lebanon's National News agency reported that Israel carried out three air strikes in the town of Deir Aames, after issuing an evacuation order. The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said it issued the evacuation order from the southern Lebanese village after Hezbollah launched rockets from the area.

Israel has said it is observing the ceasefire but ruled out withdrawing from the south Lebanese territory it has captured since the ground invasion began in mid-March. Hezbollah, on the other side, demands a full Israeli withdrawal. The Lebanese government, which was not involved in the war, says it would push for the Israeli withdrawal diplomatically.

3 killed in Kuki-Naga conflict in Manipur

Some 25 armed Kuki groups signed the SoO, a ceasefire pact, with the Indian government in 2008.

The Naga Village Guard said the armed Kuki extremists shot dead 29-year-old Horshokmi Jamang, a Naga "village volunteer", and injured four others. A retaliatory attack followed.

The Working Committee of Tangkhul Naga Long, the apex body of the tribe, said the Kuki extremists ambushed the NVG members.

An assault case on February 7 triggered the chain of conflict between the Kukis and the Nagas in Ukhrul district, signalling a shift of violence from the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley to the hills. Before Friday's gunfight, at least four people were killed in Ukhrul district since the first week of February.

10 of 26 petitioners caught in Russia-Ukraine crossfire dead

Some of them had volunteered, others had been duped, govt. tells SC; court asks if it would be possible to bring back mortal remains from a conflict zone, adds that issue needs tactful handling

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Union government informed the Supreme Court on Friday that 10 of the 26 persons who said they had been "human-trafficked" to Russia to fight against Ukraine are dead.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati further briefed the court that one of the surviving petitioners is under imprisonment for a crime, while another is "voluntarily continuing".

Ms. Bhati said the Centre is following a "multi-pronged strategy", including advising young people not to accept offers to go to Russia. "Yet they enter into voluntary contracts," she said, conceding that there were also cases of mules misguiding gullible individuals. The law officer for the Centre said the government was dealing with a "mixture of different kinds of people" here.

The family members of some of the petitioners stuck in the war zone have held sit-ins seeking their repatriation to India. FILE PHOTO

Chief Justice Kant said the issue required tactful handling. The court wondered whether it would be possible to bring back the mortal remains from a conflict zone.

Ms. Bhati submitted that the 26 petitioners were among a total of 215 individuals who had gone to Russia. "We have communicated with the parents and family members of each one of these citizens," Ms. Bhati said.

She, however, said the family members were not cooperating with the Union government's efforts. In the case of one of the dead petitioners, the family had asked the government to bring back the mortal remains. "Yesterday, they said, 'Now you keep the mortal remains, we are going to court'. I have brought the emails... There are difficulties... we understand the human angle... They have to cooperate with us. We are with every Indian citizen who needs our support," Ms. Bhati said.

The counsel for the petitioners, however, said that the government had not been in touch with the families and had not collected DNA samples to help identify the bodies for repatriation. "There are 25-year-old widows waiting for the mortal remains," the counsel said.

He submitted that the petitioners were victims who had been duped of both their money and passports by the agents, yet there had been no arrests.

The court asked the government to file a detailed status report.

The petition has arraigned, besides the Union government, the Indian Embassy in the Russian Federation and the States of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh as respondents. It has been alleged that illegal overseas recruitment rackets lure credulous youngsters with promises of high-paying jobs, only to forcibly recruit them into the Russian Army to fight Ukraine.

7 AAP MPs quit party, set to merge with BJP

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

In a massive setback to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), seven of its 10 Rajya Sabha members on Friday broke away and are set to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), marking a significant political realignment in the Upper House. The AAP accused the BJP of running "Operation Lotus" to break and poach MPs.

MPs Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak, and Ashok Kumar Mittal met BJP president Nitin Nabin at the party's headquarters in the evening. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance currently has a strength of 141 in the Upper House.

At a press conference, Mr. Chadha said that more than two-thirds of the AAP MPs had quit the party and would merge with the BJP by exercising the provisions of the Constitution. "Seven MPs have signed the document, which was submitted to the Honourable Chairman of the Rajya Sabha," he said. Mr. Chadha said the signatories included former cricketer Harbhajan Singh, Rajendra Gupta, Vikramjit Singh Sahney, and Swati Maliwal.

He accused AAP of having completely strayed from its core principles and values. "The very party that was formed with a solemn vow to eradicate corruption has today fallen disastrously into the hands of corrupt and compromised individuals," he said, adding that he distanced himself from AAP about a year ago.

He said over the past 12 years, the BJP-led Union government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi had taken several unprecedented and bold decisions to eradicate terrorism and propel India into the league of the world's top economies.

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal accused the BJP of betraying Punjab. His party colleague and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, through his X handle, said he would urge the Rajya Sabha Chairman to disqualify the membership of Mr. Chadha, Mr. Mittal, and Mr. Pathak for joining the BJP, as their action entailed "voluntarily relinquishing membership of their original party under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution".

AAP hits out at 7 MPs who quit party, says BJP is poaching through 'Operation Lotus'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

After seven Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MPs, six of them from Punjab, quit the party to 'merge' with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said the BJP has once again betrayed the people of Punjab. In a post on X, he said, "The BJP has once again betrayed Punjabis." The AAP said the BJP had triggered 'Operation Lotus' to halt the pro-people work being carried out by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann government in Punjab.

Mr. Mann, at a press conference in Chandigarh, said, "The people of Punjab will hold accountable those who betray the State, making it clear that such manoeuvres cannot secure political victories in a democracy where the people of Punjab remain supreme."

'Personal benefits'

"Several leaders had secured positions without meaningful contribution but later chose to deceive their mother party for personal benefits," he said, adding, "The BJP's 'washing machine' is being used to dry-clean tainted leaders from other parties. The BJP is poaching leaders but has no base in Punjab due to its anti-Punjab mindset."

> The BJP's 'washing machine' is being used to dry-clean tainted leaders from other parties. The BJP is poaching leaders but has no base in Punjab due to its anti-Punjab mindset
>
> **BHAGWANT MANN**
> Punjab Chief Minister

Sanjay Singh, senior AAP leader and one of the three remaining Rajya Sabha members of the party, at a press conference, called the development a betrayal of Punjab. He said free electricity, 'excellent' schools, healthcare, water supply and jobs delivered by the Mann government had become intolerable for the BJP. "Enforcement Directorate and Central Bureau of Investigation pressure was being used to engineer defections, and the people of Punjab would answer any conspiracy to halt the State's progress," he said.

"'Operation Lotus', a conspiracy to stop the pro-people work of the Bhagwant Mann government in Punjab, has now begun on a large scale. An excellent AAP government is now being stopped, broken, and obstructed by the BJP."

He said the party made Mr. Chadha an MLA and then an MP. "What did the party not give them? Sandeep Pathak also got the opportunity to reach the Rajya Sabha because of the AAP. Rajinder Gupta, Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Ashok Mittal, Swati Maliwal, all of them were lifted from the ground and sent to the nation's Parliament by the AAP and the people of Punjab." The AAP also accused the BJP of misusing enforcement agencies to break away its MPs.

'Defections a boost to BJP in run-up to Punjab polls'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The defection of seven Rajya Sabha members from the Aam Aadmi Party to the Bharatiya Janata Party is a morale booster for the BJP in Punjab, former Union Minister Ashwani Kumar said on Friday.

Mr. Kumar, a former Congress leader, said the development will enhance the BJP's negotiating ability with the Akali Dal for a possible pre-election alliance in Punjab. It could also be a contributing factor to a fractured mandate in the Assembly election in the State, which is 10 months away, he added.

India among countries where Meta 'automatically' blocks flagged content

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

India is now among a set of "limited countries" where Facebook and Instagram "automatically restrict content, at scale and based on local law requirements," a company source told *The Hindu*.

Meta, the parent firm of both social media platforms, has complied with censorship orders on a large scale in recent weeks, as the firm has been hit with a barrage of takedown notices from State police authorities as well as the Union government. Precise numbers of local law-related takedowns on the platforms will only be published by the firm in the second half of 2026.

The Sahyog portal, which provides a web link for authorised police officials to send takedown notices to social media platforms, operates under Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act, under which social media platforms could lose "safe harbour" for content posted by users, and end up in court alongside the people whose content has been targeted by authorities.

Meta did not provide written responses to questions from *The Hindu*.

The firm's receptivity to non-binding takedown notices appears to have increased since the IT Ministry in February reduced timelines from 36 hours to a maximum of three hours.

Non-compliance within this timeline would lead to a loss of safe harbour.

Meta did not respond to a question on whether it conducts human rights evaluations on such takedowns.

The help documentation on its site says it does such evaluations.

X, formerly Twitter, has challenged the Sahyog portal in the Karnataka High Court, and does not comply with police takedown notices when it believes the content they target is lawful.

Meta's response, however, is to instantaneously restrict access in response to content that has been sent through this mechanism, giving police authorities wide powers of immediate and lasting censorship that they can exercise by merely filling out an online form.

"Various apparatuses of the government have been issuing notices (not orders) providing 'actual knowledge' of violations of Indian law to platforms under Section 79(3)(b), most of which, when scrutinised, do not actually disclose any violation of any Indian law by the users," Pranesh Prakash, co-founder of the Centre for Internet and Society, who is now a tech law and policy consultant, told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Prakash said that users are seldom acted against personally in court, with the matter ending in the content takedown, which "show[s] ... that the platforms would not be held liable either."

"Yet, instead of fighting for their users, Meta is unthinkingly removing content it is legally not even required to remove," Mr. Prakash said.

Govt. clears ₹30 billion withdrawal for Maldives

Press Trust of India
MALE

India has approved the first withdrawal of ₹30 billion under its continuing economic and financial assistance to Maldives, according to the Indian High Commission here.

The funds are being released under the first drawdown of the SAARC Currency Swap Framework, the Indian mission said in a statement on Thursday.

The withdrawal under the framework was signed between RBI and the Maldives government during President Mohamed Muizzu's State visit to New Delhi in October 2024, it added.

The earlier $400 million withdrawal, availed by the Maldives under this framework in October 2024, matured on Thursday, the Indian High Commission said.

In a statement on Thursday, the Maldives Foreign Ministry said the settlement of the $400 million facility reflects the government's commitment to meeting its financial obligations, *Sun Online* reported.

Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (South) Neena Malhotra poses for a group photo during the BRICS-MENA meeting in New Delhi. PTI

BRICS-MENA envoys express concern over war in West Asia

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys of the BRICS grouping and MENA (Middle East and North Africa) met on Friday and expressed "deep concern" about the U.S.-Israel war against Iran.

Indicating divergent opinions in the meeting about the war, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the delegates "offered views and assessments" on the war. This was the first statement that India issued on the situation in the Gulf as the Chair of the BRICS.

"Members expressed deep concern on the recent conflict in the Middle East (West Asia)," said the MEA in a statement.

Earlier, the MEA official spokesperson had said that the BRICS-MENA representatives had "constructive exchange of views on current and regional developments".

India has remained engaged with the BRICS members but there has been no consensus within the grouping as Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have been caught in opposing sides in this war.

Secretary (South) of the MEA Neena Malhotra chaired Friday's meeting.

The MEA said the delegates discussed 'the Palestine issue and the Gaza situation, including provision of aid, the role of UNRWA, zero tolerance approach to terrorism,' among other matters.

Gauhati High Court rejects Pawan Khera's bail petition

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Gauhati High Court on Friday rejected Congress leader Pawan Khera's anticipatory bail plea in connection with a first information report lodged by Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, wife of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, against allegations that she possessed multiple passports and had amassed substantial assets abroad.

A single-judge Bench of Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia rejected the application three days after the court reserved its judgment.

Appearing for Mr. Khera, advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi argued that the proceedings were politically motivated and reflected vendetta, particularly in the context of the Assembly elections held on April 9.

Assam Advocate General Devajit Saikia submitted that the case extended beyond defamation and involved serious allegations, including fabrication of documents and title deeds. He argued that the primary offences invoked relate to cheating and forgery.

RSS isn't an Indian version of Ku Klux Klan, says Hosabale

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) is not like the American white supremacist group Ku Klux Klan, as neither the organisation nor Hindus in India have ever subscribed to supremacist ideologies, said RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale in Washington on Thursday.

Speaking at an interactive session with American academic Walter Russell Mead at the New India Conference organised by the Hudson Institute, Mr. Hosabale said there were misconceptions about the Sangh, similar to misunderstandings about India in the United States.

"A narrative built over decades – knowingly or unknowingly, or as part of an agenda, or whatever it is – that the RSS is Hindu supremacist, or that it is in a way anti-Christian, anti-minority, anti-development, and anti-modernisation. So what is pro is not told, and only anti things are propagated, (portraying us as) some Indian version of the Ku Klux Klan, which we are not."

Dattatreya Hosabale

Mr. Hosabale said the Sangh is a volunteer-based movement which draws inspiration from India's cultural and civilisational traditions and works on the idea of universal oneness.

Reacting to remarks made by Mr. Hosabale, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh said on social media that the RSS was seeking the world's acceptance for its "pretentious nationalism". "Not content with hiring lobbyists (including those hired by Pakistan), its top ideologues were in the U.S. recently on a PR offensive that fell flat and got caught in its own too-clever-by-half formulations," he wrote on X.

Absolute voter increases seen across Tamil Nadu followed spatial patterns

Data show the record turnout in the southern State was a consequence of the SIR exercise; while the State also registered an increase in the absolute number of voters who turned out, the provisional addition of roughly 24.8 lakh voters appears lower than the gains registered in recent cycles

Srinivasan Ramani
N. Sai Charan
Pon Vasanth B.A.
CHENNAI

The all-time high turnout in Tamil Nadu – 85.1%, according to provisional figures from the Election Commission – was shown to be a consequence of the Special Intensive Revision exercise in the State that had led to the net deletion of 68 lakh electors.

While the State also registered an increase in the absolute number of voters who turned out, the provisional addition of roughly 24.8 lakh voters appears lower than the gains registered in recent cycles – 31.1 lakh between 2016 and 2021, and 64.8 lakh between 2011 and 2016.

At the same time, when we break down the Statewide aggregate increase, distinct constituency-level variations that cut across urban/rural segments and regions are observed. Of the 234 constituencies, 220 registered increases in voters, while 14 registered absolute declines. Sriperumbudur (64,000-plus), Madhavaram (57,000-plus), and Sholinganallur (56,000-plus) registered the highest increases. Maduraі South (-7,200 odd), R.K. Nagar (-6,300), and Thousand Lights (-5,700) saw the highest decreases.

Among urban-rural segments, constituencies in semi-urban areas added a median of 13,652 voters (nearly 5% of the median electorate in those seats), almost three times as many as the 5,175 net voters in urban areas (just 2.1%) and higher than semi-rural (8,962 and 3.7%) and rural (7,616 and 3.2%). The reason why some urban constituencies registered a low net increase in voters was because of the SIR, which resulted in higher deletions, such as in Chennai, where nine constituencies saw net decrease in voters.

In terms of regions, north Tamil Nadu registered the highest median increase in actual voters (10,754) – all 41 constituencies saw a net increase. Western belt registered an increase of 9,154 voters with only one seat (Coimbatore South) seeing a decrease in actual voters. The south and delta regions trailed at 8,368 and 7,529, respectively. One hypothesis worth testing once results are out: did the higher increases in voters concentrate in seats where the contest was closer?

Semi-urban, northern surge

While the SIR's deletions muted turnout in cities like Chennai, northern and semi-urban areas of Tamil Nadu registered a good increase in voters compared with the 2021 election

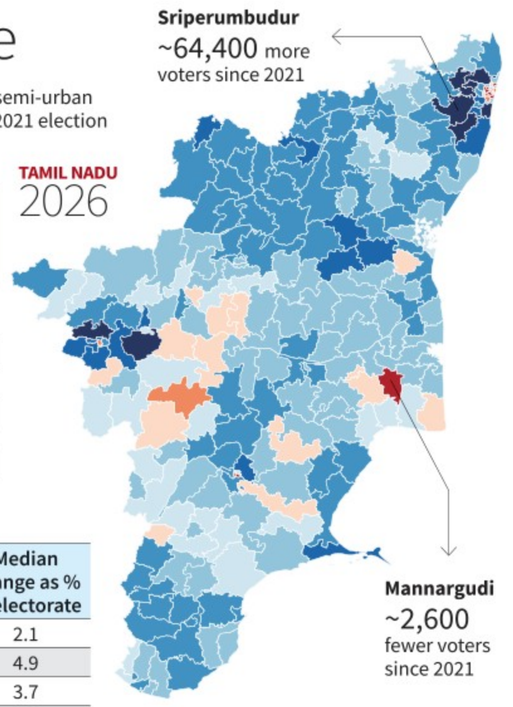
2021 vs 2026: Region-wise net change in people who voted

Region	ACs*	ACs with increase in voters	ACs with decrease in voters	Median change in voters	Average number of electors	Median change as % of electorate
Greater Chennai	37	28	9	+8,964	2,59,899	3.4
North T.N.	41	41	0	+10,754	2,36,845	4.5
West T.N.	57	56	1	+9,154	2,44,996	3.7
Delta	41	40	1	+7,529	2,34,601	3.2
South T.N.	58	55	3	+8,368	2,48,843	3.4
Total	234	220	14	+8,868	2,45,056	3.6

2021 vs 2026: Net change in people who voted - Rural/Urban

Region	ACs*	ACs with increase in voters	ACs with decrease in voters	Median change in voters	Average number of electors	Median change as % of electorate
Urban	35	23	12	+5,175	2,40,901	2.1
Semi-urban	36	36	0	+13,651	2,76,948	4.9
Semi-rural	102	101	1	+8,962	2,40,294	3.7
Rural	59	58	1	+7,616	2,37,006	3.2
Total	234	220	14	+8,868	2,45,056	3.6

New voters: A group of first-time and young voters wait in a queue at a polling booth in Salem in Tamil Nadu on Thursday. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN E.



GAINS & LOSSES

A total of 220 Assembly constituencies gained voters compared with the 2021 election, while 14 registered a decrease

Source: ECI Polling Trends (24 April 2026) & 2021 ECI data. Polling trends are provisional. *Assembly Constituencies

Record poll turnout in Bengal, T.N. shows citizens' strength: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

CJI Surya Kant

The Supreme Court on Friday said a record 92.03% voter turnout and minimal violence in the West Bengal Assembly election is proof that citizens know their strength lies in the democratic act of voting.

"Individually, as a citizen of India, I was very happy to see the percentage of voting. In this country, the people need to participate... The people realise their power in a democracy, the power of vote. They know that their strength lies in the democratic act of voting. They will not indulge in violence," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, said.

Fear among migrants

Senior advocate Kalyan Bandhopadhyay, appearing for Trinamool Congress leaders who are petitioners challenging the constitutionality of the West Bengal SIR, credited the heavy polling largely to migrant workers who, fearing disenfranchisement, had rushed in from across the country to vote.

"There must have been a fear in the minds of the voters that if 'I do not cast my vote, I may lose my right'," Mr. Bandhopadhyay said.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, on the Bench, quoted an adage in Bengali, which he translated into English as "the kings fight and the poor suffer and die".

"The democratic process must be respected and honoured, or the essence of democracy would be lost," Justice Bagchi said.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said one ought to focus on the "historic" polling percentages in both West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, rather than delving into the reasons behind the phenomenon at this stage. He said the security forces had done a commendable job in keeping polling relatively safe in West Bengal.

Justice Bagchi turned to the Election Commission of India (EC) counsel, senior advocate D.S. Naidu, to remark that his client was "applauded by everyone". "I have become everybody's favourite punching bag," Mr. Naidu responded.

Opposition parties move fresh motion in Rajya Sabha seeking removal of CEC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Gyanesh Kumar

The Opposition parties moved a fresh notice in the Rajya Sabha on Friday seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, accusing him of acting in a partisan manner.

The 13-page notice, which was submitted by senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh and Trinamool Congress member Sagarika Ghose to the Rajya Sabha Secretary-General, was signed by 73 Opposition members of the Upper House.

Citing examples from West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Uttar Pradesh, the MPs levelled nine charges against him. Accusing the CEC of "asymmetrical enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct", they said the poll body ignored the violation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who used the public broadcaster to denounce the Opposition through his address to the nation.

They also flagged an EC post on X against the Trinamool Congress ahead of the election in West Bengal; the spat between Mr. Kumar and a Trinamool Congress delegation during a recent meeting at EC headquarters in Delhi; "mass disenfranchisement" in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, ignoring complaints filed by the Opposition parties; and the "illegal abuse" of power by transferring and posting of bureaucrats in Tamil Nadu. They also criticised the EC's "institutional proximity" to the BJP, pointing to an incident in Kerala where an official election document reportedly carried the seal of a BJP State unit.

The notice, addressed to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, was moved under Article 324(5) of the Constitution, read with Article 124(4), Section 11(2) of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023, and the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

If the Rajya Sabha Chairman accepts the notice, he will order a probe. The MPs demanded that Mr. Kumar, pending the inquiry, recuse himself from poll-related functions in States where elections are under way. According to the signatories, Friday's motion pertains exclusively to Mr. Kumar's actions after March 15 and is distinct from an earlier notice submitted on March 12, which was rejected by the chair of both Houses.

High turnout in Bengal doesn't always point to anti-incumbency, show data

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

People waiting to cast their vote in Nandigram, West Bengal, on Thursday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The first phase of the West Bengal Assembly election on Thursday recorded the highest voter turnout in Assembly polls in the State since Independence, data analysed by *The Hindu* show.

The turnout stood at 92.88% across 152 constituencies in 16 districts. The State voted with a truncated electoral roll – reduced by 12% after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process removed at least 91 lakh names.

The previous highest turnout (84.33%) for the first phase was in 2011, when the Trinamool Congress, led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, ended the 34-year Left Front rule. High voter participation was also recorded in 2006 (81.97%), 2016 (82.66%), and 2021 (81.56%). However, these elections did not result in regime change, suggesting that high turnout does not necessarily correlate with anti-incumbency sentiments. For instance, when the Left Front overthrew the Congress regime in Bengal in 1977, the voter turnout was only 56.15%.

With 3.60 crore voters eligible to vote in the first phase, a turnout of 92.88% translates to about 3.34 crore people. In the days leading up to polling on April 23, waves of migrant workers returned to central Bengal from across the country. Migrants from minority-dominated districts said they were keen to vote, fearing that their voting rights could otherwise be taken away.

While the BJP, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, has exuded confidence that a high turnout indicates a change in the State, Ms. Banerjee said it shows voter sentiments against the SIR and in favour of the Trinamool.

Retired bureaucrat and former Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal Jawhar Sircar said the number of voters who turned out was very close to previous elections when voting was less, and attributed the increase to the truncated electoral rolls. "There is complete certainty that many genuine voters have been cut off, especially the 34.5 lakh people who have filed appeals before the tribunals," he said.

Mr. Sircar said the high turnout could swing either way. "There is a strong angst in Bengal over how names have been struck off [voters' list]. Many who would not otherwise have voted have turned up. This may go against the BJP," he added. "However, it may also be true that the electoral rolls were cleaned up in such a way that it will be a signal victory for the BJP."

Debashis Sen, another former CEO of West Bengal, said there will be a different voting pattern among migrants who returned to vote. "If the migrant is from the minority community and is coming from a BJP-ruled State, he will vote differently, and if he is a Hindu, he will vote differently," Mr. Sen said.

In the 2021 election, when the voter turnout was 81.56%, the Trinamool Congress won 215 seats with a vote share of 48%, while the BJP won 77 seats with a vote share of 37.97%.

SC asks Bengal poll officers to pursue appeals on SIR exclusion

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday told a group of over 65 West Bengal poll duty officers, excluded from the electoral roll on the ground of logical discrepancies in their personal details during the special intensive revision (SIR) process, to pursue their appeals before the Appellate Tribunals.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant did not intervene on their petition seeking a direction to the Election Commission of India (EC) and the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer to permit them to vote in the Assembly polls during the pendency of their appeals.

The petitioners, led by Md. Tohidul Islam, said they were government employees formally appointed by the District Election Officers to function as polling and presiding officers. "The petitioners are deemed to be on deputation to the Election Commission itself for the duration of the election. They are thus officers of the Election Commission, conducting the election on its behalf, whilst being simultaneously excluded from participating in it as voters," the petition said.

Senior advocate M.R. Shamshad and advocate Aditya Samaddar, appearing for the petitioners, said they had valid and unique Electors' Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers and that their names appeared in the 2002 electoral roll. They said their appointment orders expressly recorded their EPIC numbers, identifying them as registered electors in their respective constituencies.

Mr. Shamshad said the tribunals were yet to take up their appeals filed on April 5.

Modi promises fresh investigation into R.G. Kar case after May 4

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

With Ratna Debnath, the mother of the doctor who was sexually assaulted and killed at Kolkata's R.G. Kar hospital in 2024 by his side, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday addressed a public meeting at Panihati and launched a scathing attack on the Trinamool Congress, calling it an "anti-woman" party.

Ms. Debnath is contesting from the Panihati Assembly seat in North 24 Parganas district.

"See the mother, she made her daughter a doctor, and the *maha* jungle raj [lawless regime] of the Trinamool snatched her daughter away. The BJP decided to make the mother, a candidate," Mr. Modi said. He said that after the counting of votes on May 4, all the files related to the case will be opened.

The rape and murder of the doctor at the State-run hospital on August 9, 2024, saw spontaneous outpouring of grief and anger on the streets of Kolkata and had turned out to be the biggest challenge for the Trinamool Congress government.

Panihati, a suburban constituency on the northern fringes of Kolkata, is in the limelight over Ms. Debnath's candidature.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with BJP candidate Ratna Debnath during a poll campaign in Panihati, West Bengal, on Friday. PTI

The BJP has built its campaign on atrocities against women. The Prime Minister promised that the BJP will ensure protection, respect and prosperity to women in the State.

Mr. Modi, who spent Thursday night in Kolkata and took a boat ride in the river Hooghly on Friday morning, also exuded confidence over the record voting of 92.88% in the first phase. "The wave of change that had been visible in Bengal for a long time. [Thursday's] Yesterday's first phase of voting put its seal on it. The support shown in favour of the BJP has sounded the conch shell of the BJP's victory," he said. The Prime Minister also claimed that in several districts, the Trinamool will not be able to open an account.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who said that he had been staying in the city for over 12 days, held a press conference at a Kolkata hotel and claimed that the BJP will win 110 of the 152 seats that went to the polls in the first phase. Mr. Shah said two crucial issues – anti-incumbency and atrocities on women – will determine the outcome of the election.

Another constituency that is in the spotlight is Bhabanipur, from where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is contesting. She held a roadshow in Bhabanipur with senior Trinamool leader and Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim. Bhabanipur, where Ms. Banerjee is being challenged by Leader of the Opposition and BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari, has been electing her since 2011.

Addressing a public meeting in the constituency later in the day, the Chief Minister tried to puncture holes in the claims of BJP leaders and said that in several districts, the BJP will get a *golla* (zero). "You are making so much noise that it seems you have won all the seats. The BJP will get '*golla* (zero)' in Alipurduar, Cooch Behar, Uttar Dinajpur, South Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad," she said at the meeting in Howrah.

Later in the day, Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee said at a public meeting in South 24 Parganas that the Trinamool had hit a century in the first phase.

INBRIEF

Rajnath Singh to attend 2026 SCO Defence Ministers' meet

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will travel to Bishkek on April 27-28 to attend the Defence Ministers' meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), which will bring together Defence Ministers from SCO member states. A senior defence official confirmed that Mr. Singh will lead the Indian delegation at the high-level meeting. Key issues on the agenda include terrorism, extremism, and regional security concerns amid shifting global alignments. On the sidelines of the meeting, Mr. Singh is expected to hold bilateral talks with his counterparts from participating countries, aimed at enhancing defence cooperation and strategic partnerships.

Govt. asks OTT platform not to release series on gangster

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) has issued an advisory to OTT platform Zee5, asking it not to release a documentary series on jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi scheduled for April 27. The advisory on the series, *Lawrence of Punjab*, followed proceedings in the Punjab and Haryana High Court on a plea filed by Congress Lok Sabha MP Amrinder Singh Raja Warring. The Punjab government said the series could lead to "impressionable individuals being influenced and drawn towards criminal or gangster-related activities". Zee5 did not respond to a query by *The Hindu* on its plans for the series.

ED probes TTI-linked funds from foreign bank debit cards

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has conducted searches in connection with the suspected withdrawal and use of funds through foreign bank debit cards in a probe linked to 'The Timothy Initiative (TTI)' and associated persons. The agency said around ₹95 crore of inflow via such cards has been reported over the past several months. Under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), the searches were carried out on April 18 and 19 at six locations in Assam, Chhattisgarh and other places.A parallel cash-based economy in Naxal-affected areas poses a serious threat to the security and financial integrity of India, the agency said.

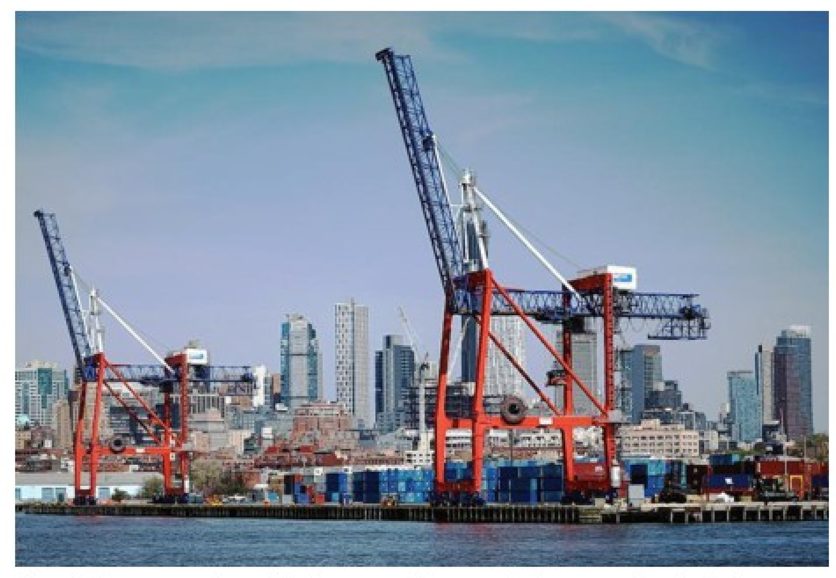
Three-year-old girl raped in Surat, neighbour arrested

A three-and-a-half-year-old girl was raped allegedly by her neighbour in Gujarat's Surat, the police said on Friday. The suspect was later arrested. The crime took place on Thursday. The suspect allegedly assaulted the child, who resides with her family. The police said the girl had stepped out of her house to use the bathroom when the accused caught her and committed the sexual assault. The man was apprehended within hours of the incident, and a case has been registered under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the police said.

'Constructive' trade deal talks held with U.S.: India

This was the first in-person meeting between the two since October 2025; an Interim Agreement was delayed after the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated reciprocal tariffs Trump had levied on India

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI



The talks covered multiple areas like market access, technical barriers to trade, customs and trade facilitation. REUTERS

The negotiating teams of India and the U.S. held "constructive" and "forward-looking" talks on a trade deal, the Indian government said following the conclusion of the talks, which took place in Washington on April 20-23.

India and the U.S. on February 7 issued a joint statement agreeing on a framework for an Interim Agreement pertaining to reciprocal tariffs and mutually beneficial trade.

That Interim Agreement was to be signed in March, but was delayed after the Supreme Court of the U.S. invalidated the reciprocal tariffs U.S. President Donald Trump had levied on other countries, including India.

The framework agreed to in February also reaffirmed the two countries' commitment towards achieving a broader Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). "In pursuance thereof, the Indian side visited Washington D.C. for an in-person round of meetings with their U.S. counterparts to finalise the details of the Interim Agreement and take forward the negotiations under the broader BTA," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a short statement on Friday.

It added that the talks covered multiple areas such as market access, non-tariff measures, technical barriers to trade, customs and trade facilitation, investment promotion, economic security alignment, and digital trade.

The statement, however, fell short of stating a deadline by which the Interim Agreement or the BTA would be finalised, or when the next round of talks would be held. This round was the first time the two teams had met in person since October 2025.

'Shaky wicket'

Speaking at the Hudson Institute Seminar in Washington, senior BJP leader Ram Madhav, however, voiced confidence that the deal would be signed soon.

"[India-U.S.] is a very important relationship that we have built over last two decades. That's on a very shaky wicket," Mr. Madhav said, speaking at a session with former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and think-tank Stimson Centre's South Asia Director Elizabeth Threlkeld, where he said tariffs and economic issues over the past year had raised problems.

"We are looking forward to the trade deal which is expected to be concluded in less than a month now. We are hoping that when [U.S. Secretary of State Marco] Rubio visits India next month we will finally have closed the deal that is a very important because we are hoping that we will have a better tariff regime," he said, quoting information received from the government.

Previously, officials in the Ministry of Commerce – including Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal – have said that a deal would be signed only after the U.S. finalises the tariffs it plans to levy on India and its competitors.

"The meetings were conducted in a constructive and positive spirit with meaningful and forward-looking discussions enabling progress on key matters," the Indian government's statement added.

Over 6 lakh register for CBSE's Class 10 second Board exam

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The second Class 10 board exams are scheduled to be held from May 15 to May 21.

Over 6.68 lakh students have registered for the second Class 10 Board examination conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for the 2025-26 academic year, scheduled to be held from May 15 to May 21.

While a majority of the 6,68,854 students are appearing in the exam for getting their scores improved (up to 5,25,655), another 85,285 are reappearing under the Compartment category. Additionally, 57,914 students are appearing both under the Compartment category and to get their scores improved.

The Compartment category is a provision by the CBSE that allows Class 10 students who did not pass in one or two subjects out of the five main subjects to clear those papers without repeating the entire academic year, while Improvement is for students who passed but want to increase their marks.

Adhering to NEP

The CBSE's decision is in line with the 2020 National Education Policy's recommendation to remove the 'high stakes' nature of Board exams by allowing all students to attempt the exams on two occasions during any given school year if they wish. "All students who pass the first Board examination and are eligible will be allowed to improve their performance in any of the three subjects out of science, mathematics, social science, and two language papers," CBSE chairman Rahul Singh had earlier stated. "The second exam is purely optional and additional in nature. The better of the two scores will be considered in the final mark sheets of students who appear in both exams."

More students have opted to reappear for mathematics and science papers as compared with social science and English.

Assam court hands life sentence to 20 in 2018 lynching case

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A sessions court in central Assam's Nagaon district on Friday awarded life imprisonment to 20 people held guilty of lynching two men in June 2018.

The court had convicted the 20 tribal villagers on April 20, while acquitting 25 other accused due to lack of evidence.

A mob of at least 150 villagers lynched Abhijit Nath and Nilotpal Das at Panjuri Kachari Gaon Tiniali under Dokmoka police station in Karbi Anglong district. The district adjoins Nagaon.

The duo was returning from Kangthilangshu waterfalls, which they visited as part of their environmental study, when the mob attacked them on suspicion of being child lifters.

According to the prosecution, a rumour about kidnappers circulating on social media at the time led to the lynching. Videos of the incident, with the duo identifying themselves and pleading for their lives, sparked outrage.

The police arrested 48 people, three of whom were juveniles. The chargesheet was filed in 2024, and the trial, initially held in Diphu, the headquarters of Karbi Anglong, was transferred to Nagaon after a directive from the Gauhati High Court.

Sessions Judge Dibya Jyoti Mahanta, while delivering the verdict, also imposed a fine of ₹20,000 each on the 20 convicts.

The victims' families said they would consult with their lawyers to decide whether to challenge the ruling before the High Court.

Industry body flags concern over proposed pesticides Bill

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Farmers need faster access to crop protection technologies, the industry body said.

An industry body of pesticide manufacturers has urged the Union Agriculture Secretary to bring in targeted changes in the draft Pesticides Management Bill to ensure farmers get faster access to effective crop protection technologies.

This comes even as Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said in Lucknow on Friday that the Union government will bring an amended Seeds and Pesticide Management Bill in the upcoming session of Parliament.

CropLife India, the industrial body of pesticide and crop protection chemicals manufacturers, also called for inclusion of time-bound Protection of Regulatory Data (PRD) framework for new molecules and new uses. In its recommendations to the Ministry on the proposed law, the body said the current draft does not address the policy gap contributing to this innovation lag.

"When farmers remain dependent on older chemistries for too long, resistance builds faster, spray intensity rises, and it becomes harder to meet tightening residue expectations in domestic and export markets," CropLife India said in a statement, adding that newer crop protection technologies are more targeted, lower-dose and better aligned to evolving pest pressures, yet their introduction in India is often delayed.

It said bringing a new molecule or new use to India requires major investment in safety, efficacy, residue and environmental data. "Without a clear framework governing how that data is used, there is limited incentive to introduce newer technologies early in the Indian market. The association has therefore proposed a limited, time-bound PRD framework of about five years from first registration, which would create a more predictable pathway for newer solutions to reach farmers faster, while allowing competition through independent data generation," the statement added.

SC sends plea by chopper scam accused to new Bench

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Friday referred a plea by Christian Michel James, the alleged middleman in the ₹3,600-crore AgustaWestland VVIP chopper scam, seeking release from jail to another Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath. The Bench headed by Justice Nath had earlier given Mr. James, a British national, bail in February 2025.

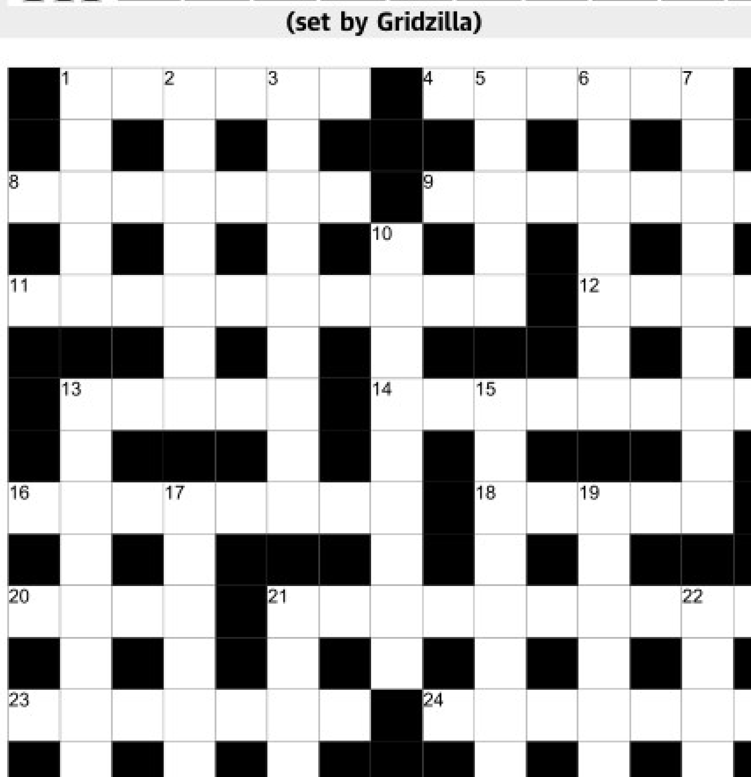
On Friday, advocates Aljo Joseph, M.S. Vishnu Shankar, and Sriram Parakkat, for Mr. James, submitted that he had already suffered incarceration for 7.4 years. The offences of corruption for which he had been extradited had a maximum five years' imprisonment if found guilty.

TH CROSSWORD+ 14777

(set by Gridzilla)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1. Heavenly body starts to revolve around sun and ultimately quits revolving (6)
4. Tooth decay can affect roots in elderly subjects primarily (6)
8. Go over the daily grind, taking drugs for a bit of amusement (7)
9. Girl and boy enthralled by wild bison and apes (7)
11. Peek and go on (4,6)
12. Avoiding pressure, lift part of foot (4)
13. Car manufacturer's latest model is out perhaps (5)
14. What a job applicant might do to develop? (4,4)
16. On the way out, daughter stops to pick up prize (4,4)
18. Uncivilized gestures to describe creeps? (5)
20. Oddly, slug hit after ricocheting, like so (4)
21. Lots of soot spoils furniture (10)
23. Armed marine? (7)
24. Failing tests regularly, police detective is forced to leave (7)
25. Improves a couple of measures at day school (6)
26. Roll soy or figs basically for desserts (6)

DOWN

1. What starts quarrels, reportedly, in a waiting line? (5)
2. Liquid soap or drop of paraffin is suitable (7)
3. Sarpanch or agent controls city (9)
5. Getting angry right away and mellowing (5)
6. Precisely where to see a lawyer's defence strategy? (2,5)
7. Smart chaps get small cushy jobs (9)
10. According to Spooner, cold smoked salmon is something a cat owner might buy (6,3)
13. Hot chocolate - not cold, mostly, could produce a problem (9)
15. Sleek founders? (5,4)
17. So, bride's desperate to take clothes off? (7)
19. Love, for one, made rich guy irritable (7)
21. Regained ground (5)
22. City will be safe and prosperous ultimately (5)

SUDOKU

	9	6	2		5			
5	4				1			
8			6			7	2	
	5		8					
4		3				1		7
					3		5	
	6	8			4			2
			7				1	9
			1		2	4	8	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

S	O	L	I	T	U	D	E	■	T	R	O	P	I	C
E	■	U	■	E	■	O	■	J	■	E	■	L	■	H
A	F	G	H	A	N	I	■	O	C	C	L	U	D	E
S	■	H	■	■	■	T	■	B	■	O	■	M	■	E
C	R	O	S	S	E	Y	E	D	■	N	E	A	R	S
A	■	L	■	H	■	O	■	E	■	N	■	G	■	E
P	R	E	C	I	O	U	S	S	T	O	N	E	S	■
E	■	■	■	S	■	R	■	C	■	I	■	■	■	U
■	O	R	C	H	E	S	T	R	A	T	I	O	N	S
A	■	A	■	K	■	E	■	I	■	R	■	L	■	E
V	A	G	U	E	■	L	I	P	R	E	A	D	E	R
O	■	T	■	B	■	F	■	T	■	■	■	S	■	N
C	L	I	M	A	T	E	■	I	N	E	R	T	I	A
E	■	M	■	B	■	R	■	O	■	T	■	E	■	M
T	H	E	I	S	M	■	O	N	E	H	O	R	S	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	4	2	7	5	6	8	9	1
6	5	8	9	4	1	7	2	3
1	9	7	8	3	2	5	4	6
7	3	9	6	1	4	2	5	8
2	8	4	5	7	3	1	6	9
5	6	1	2	9	8	3	7	4
8	1	5	4	2	9	6	3	7
9	7	3	1	6	5	4	8	2
4	2	6	3	8	7	9	1	5

FAITH

Freed from greed

Greed is a terrible disease, which spares no one. That is why in his *Kandar Anubhuti*, Arunagirinatha refers to *perasai* (greed) as a *pini* (disease), said So. So. Meenakshisundaram in a discourse. Arunagirinatha urges us to seek Lord Murugan, who alone can help us get rid of avarice. Desires are the starting point of greed. At first, we want something, and when we have it, we want something else. We go on and on acquiring things. We never know when to stop. And we do not know how to stop. So, it is desire that leads to avarice. Desires are responsible for our repeated births in this world.

Thiruvalluvar warns of the dangers of desires. He says that desire is the seed of birth. A pure heart is one without desires, and a pure heart is attained only when we seek the Supreme Truth. It is important that we fear desires, because desires bring us sorrow. He who relinquishes his desire for something, is freed from the troubles that it brings.

In verse 17 of his *Kandar Anubhuti*, Arunagirinatha cries out to Lord Murugan, praising Him as the slayer of Soorapadman, who had lived for many years. Muruga had destroyed Soorapadman using His *vel*, and had thus saved *devaloka*. "Is it fair that I be caught in the never-ending cycle of births and deaths, afflicted by the disease of limitless desires?" asks Arunagirinatha. Just as Soorapadman was long-lived, greed too is long-lived. But Soorapadman was destroyed by Murugan's *vel*. There is a great *asura* inside all of us, the demon of desire. Arunagirinatha wants Lord Murugan to destroy this asura, just as He destroyed Soorapadman.

INBRIEF

Rupee ends 15 paise weaker at 94.16 against U.S. dollar

The rupee extended its losing streak for the fifth day in a row, depreciating 15 paise to close at 94.16 against the U.S. dollar on Friday due to higher crude oil prices and strengthening American currency, with prospects of West Asia peace talks hanging in the balance. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.25 and stayed range-bound throughout the session, hitting the day's high of 94.18 and low of 94.31 against the greenback. PTI

Mines ministry announce ₹5,000 cr. incentive scheme

Seeking to incentivise States towards ensuring that mines are placed faster for auctions, the Ministry of Mines has instituted an incentive scheme with an outlay of ₹5,000 crore for FY 2026-27. Incorporated under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), it centres around quicker operationalisation of mines, readiness in placing mines for auction, governance and integration with the Ministry's central monitoring portal.

IndusInd Bank beats profit view on fewer new bad loans

IndusInd Bank reported a bigger-than-expected fourth-quarter profit on Friday, as the pace of additions to bad loans slowed, with provisions also dropping. The private lender posted a profit of ₹5.33 billion ($56.55 million) for the quarter ended March 31, per LSEG-compiled data. In the year-ago quarter, the bank had reported its biggest-ever quarterly loss. Analysts said stress in segments such as microfinance, where IndusInd Bank grappled with high bad loans, would ease during the quarter, as the bank tightened lending, improving its asset quality. REUTERS

Net FDI hits 45-month high in Feb., breaks six-month 'jinx'

Inflows exceeded outflows of direct investment by $4.6 bn; gross FDI grew 61.6% to a seven-month high of nearly $9 bn; India remains an attractive destination for greenfield FDI projects, says RBI

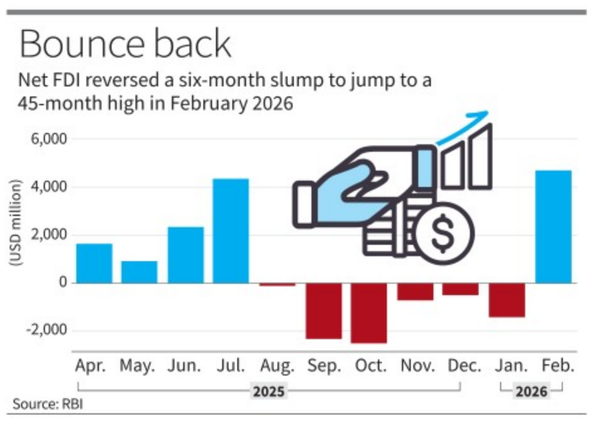
T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Net foreign direct investment (FDI) into India turned positive in February 2026 after six months of being in the negative, latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data show. In February, the inflows exceeded outflows of direct investment by $4.6 billion, the highest in nearly four years.

The main reason for this was a simultaneous increase in inward FDI to multi-month highs while the quantum of money that left the country fell to multi-year lows.

Gross FDI in February 2026, or the total amount of money coming in as direct investment, grew 61.6% to a seven-month high of nearly $9 billion.

Over the course of the first 11 months of this financial year, gross FDI stood at $88.3 billion, a growth of 18.1% over the same period of the previous financial year. "Manufacturing, computer services, financial services, business services, and communication services accounted for more than two-thirds of total equity inflows during 2025-26 so far [up to February]," the RBI said.



"Furthermore, Singapore, the U.S., Mauritius, Japan, and the Netherlands were the major source countries of inward FDI to India, accounting for around three-fourth of the total inflows."

The RBI also asserted that India remains an "attractive destination for greenfield FDI projects". However, the data it provided from the global greenfield FDI database fDi Markets, shows that greenfield project announcements to India fell 11% in April-January 2026 to $65 billion as compared with the same period of the previous year. Total outflows of direct investment, on the other hand, fell to their lowest level in 27 months, of $4.4 billion.

The main reason for this was a sharp decrease in the amount of money sent out of the country by foreign companies in the form of repatriation and disinvestment. The amount fell to $1.7 billion in February 2026, about 30% lower than it was in February 2025 and about one-third of the amount sent out in January this year.

The other component of outflows – outward investments by Indian companies – also contracted sharply, by 30.4%, in February 2026. According to the RBI, around 75% of the outward FDI flows in February went to Singapore, the UAE, and the UK.

As a result of all of this, net FDI in February 2026 stood at $4.6 billion, the highest it has been since May 2022.

'Mixed signals in Indian economy on war impact'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian economy is giving mixed signals in the wake of the West Asia crisis, with some demand indicators remaining strong, while others weaken, and supply indicators starting to show signs of stress, the RBI noted in its latest analysis on the economy.

It added that the possibility of the supply crunch turning into a demand shock in India in the future warrants "careful and continuous assessment".

In March, available high-frequency indicators of economic activity displayed divergent trends: demand conditions remained resilient, despite some pockets of slowdown in economic momentum," the central bank noted in its latest State of the Economy report.

"RBI's forward-looking surveys pointed towards softening consumer confidence on the current situation and moderation in business optimism along with buildup of cost pressures."

"The manufacturing PMI, albeit in an expansionary zone, declined to its lowest level in nearly four years. Cost pressures and uncertainty took a toll on new orders and output, which grew at the slowest rates since mid-2022. The services PMI showed resilience, although its pace of expansion slowed to a 14-month low, reflecting softening in new business," the RBI said.

It also took note of the fact that the index of eight core industries also declined to a 19-month low.

RBI cancels banking licence of Paytm Payments Bank

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday cancelled the banking licence issued to Paytm Payments Bank Limited under Section 22 (4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 ('BR Act') effective from close of business on April 24, 2026.

"Consequently, Paytm Payments Bank Limited is prohibited from conducting the business of 'banking' as defined in Section 5(b) or any additional business specified under Section 6 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with immediate effect," the RBI said in a circular.

The regulator said it would make an application for winding up of the bank, before the High Court.

Paytm Payments Bank had enough liquidity to repay its entire deposit liability upon winding up, the RBI said.

The action was taken because the bank failed to comply with the conditions stipulated in the Payments Bank licence issued to it, thereby violating the provisions of Section 22 (3) (g) of the BR Act.

Earlier, the bank was directed to stop onboarding of new customers with effect from March 11, 2022.

Thereafter, on January 31, 2024 and February 16, 2024, certain business restrictions were also imposed on the bank, disallowing any further deposits or top-ups in existing customer accounts, prepaid instruments, and wallets.

Meanwhile, Paytm (One 97 Communications Ltd.), which had floated Paytm Payments Bank, has distanced itself from the payments bank, calling it a "separate entity."

RBI said it would make an application before the HC for winding up of the bank.

"As previously disclosed on March 1, 2024, the company [Paytm] does not have any exposure to PPBL or any material business arrangements with PPBL. No services provided by the company are in partnership with PPBL," it said in a filing with exchanges.

"As informed earlier, the services, which have been operating without interruption, will continue to operate uninterrupted. These include the Paytm app, Paytm UPI, Paytm Gold and all other services offered by its subsidiaries and associated companies such as Paytm QR, Paytm Soundbox, Paytm card machines, and Paytm Payment Gateway, Paytm Money among others," Paytm said.

"We [Paytm] would point out to all stakeholders that this matter is related to PPBL, a separate entity, and any reference to this matter should be made solely in the context of PPBL, and not attributed to the company," it added further.

Shriram Fin Q4 net surges 40%, flags West Asia risk

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Non-banking lender Shriram Finance reported a 40% jump in consolidated profit to ₹3,021 crore during the March quarter and flagged risks from the West Asia crisis and likely monsoon deficit to businesses.

The firm is maintaining its 18% assets under management (AUM) growth target for FY27 despite the headwinds it will be facing, a top company official said.

"We had initially budgeted for the year to grow at 18%," Shriram Finance executive vice-chairman Umesh Revankar said.

"Now, looking at the crisis, we need to relook at it, but we have not revised it. So, we are still maintaining 18%," he added.

JSW, Japan's JFE to infuse ₹32,000 cr. to boost steel capacity

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Sambalpur Growth Corridor is likely to attract investments of ₹1 lakh crore and generate 2 lakh jobs

JSW Steel and Japan's JFE Steel Corporation proposed to infuse ₹32,000 crore via joint venture (JV) to augment steel production capacity from 4.5 million tonne per annum to more than 10 mtpa in Odisha's Sambalpur district.

The 50:50 JV will see output of Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd., Sambalpur, acquired by JSW, rising from 4.5 mtpa to over 10 mtpa. CM Mohan Majhi, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, JSW group CMD Sajjan Jindal and JFE Steel president Masayuki Hirose were present.

"JFE Steel has committed about ₹15,750 crore for its 50% stake with half of that already invested. The plant makes hot-rolled and cold-rolled steel, bars, wire rods and pipes," as per a statement. The JV will combine JFE's advanced technology with JSW's operations to boost output.

Mr. Majhi said, "A 'Sambalpur Growth Corridor' will be developed encompassing Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Bargarh and Deogarh which is likely to attract investments of ₹1 lakh crore and generate employment opportunities to over two lakh people."

Noida Airport names Nitu Samra as interim CEO

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Noida International Airport has appointed CEO Nitu Samra as interim CEO after the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security denied security clearance to CEO Christoph Schnellmann, a Swiss national, which held up the launch of flight operations at the recently-inaugurated airport.

"With immediate effect, Nitu Samra has been appointed as CEO on an interim basis, until the board of directors can conclude a formal selection process," Noida International Airport said in a statement.

Mr. Schnellmann, who was the CEO since August 2020, will move to the board of directors as executive vice- chairman.

RIL Q4 net slips 13% to ₹16,971 crore, oil & gas hit, firm to pay ₹6 dividend

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) reported a 13% year-on-year fall in Q4 consolidated net profit to ₹16,971 crore as the oil and gas unit suffered a hit while retail had a flat bottomline.

Gross revenue at ₹3,25,290 crore increased 12.9% as Oil 2 Chemicals (O2C), Digital Services and Retail each delivered double-digit revenue growth.

Oil and Gas revenue slid on natural decline in KG D6 production, RIL said.

Tough time: Through FY2025-26, RIL faced geopolitical disruptions, volatile energy price and shifting global trade patterns. REUTERS

The board has declared a dividend of ₹6 per share.

For FY26 consolidated net profit grew 7% to ₹84,207 crore. Revenue at ₹11,75,919 crore climbed 9.8%. While Jio Platforms revenue rose 14.7%, Reliance Retail's grew 11.8% and O2C revenue grew 6%.

"Through fiscal FY2025-26, we faced geopolitical disruptions, volatile energy price and shifting global trade patterns weighing on businesses across the world," said CMD Mukesh D. Ambani, RIL.

"India held its economic growth course through all this as did RIL. The breadth of portfolio and strong local orientation helped navigate volatility in external environment."

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
VIZAG

"e" Procurement Tender Notice No. 1/2026-27/SE(P)/EE-(PD-I)/DB/GVMC, Dt: 21-04-2026 (1st call)
Number of works -02, Value of works Rs. 2.45 Crores
Tender Opening Dt.24.04.2026, Closing Date:11.05.2026
Note: Further details at http://www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in
O/o the EE-(PD-I), Cell No. 9848308824 For Commissioner

सेन्ट्रल माईन प्लानिंग एण्ड डिजाईन इन्स्टीच्यूट लिमिटेड
CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008, Jharkhand, India

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in** /respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in**"

Government of India, Department of Space
Indian Space Research Organisation
LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE
Valiamala.P.O. Thiruvananthapuram-695 547

Advertisement No. LPSC/01/2026 dated 25.04.2026

Applications are invited for the following posts for LPSC, Valiamala near Thiruvananthapuram.

Post No.	No. of vacancies	Essential requirements	
Scientist / Engineer 'SC' [Level 10 (Pay Matrix : ₹56,100/- – ₹1,77,500/-)]			
803	01	1. B.E./B Tech in Mechanical / Production Engg. 2. M.E./M Tech in Welding Technology / Mechanical Welding and Sheet Metal Engg.	B.E/B Tech or equivalent should be with an aggregate minimum of 65% marks (average of all semesters) or CGPA 6.84 on a 10 point scale. AMIE / Grade IETE candidates should have minimum of 65% marks or CGPA 6.84 on a 10 point scale in Section B alone. M.E./M Tech or equivalent with an aggregate minimum of 60% marks or CGPA / CPI grades of 6.5 on a 10 point scale.
804	01	1. B.E./B Tech in Mechanical Engg. 2. M.E./M Tech in Turbo Machinery / Internal Combustion Engines and Turbo Machinery / Internal Combustion Engg.	
805	01	1. B.E./B Tech in Electronics & Communication Engg. / Electronics & Instrumentation Engg./ Applied Electronics Engg. 2. M.E./M Tech in Power Electronics / Power Electronics and Control / Power Control and Drives / Advanced Electrical Power System / Electrical and Electronics (Power Systems) / High Voltage and Power Systems Engg. / Industrial Power Control and drives.	
806	01	1. B.E./B Tech in Electronics & Communication Engg./ Electronics & Instrumentation Engg./ Applied Electronics Engg. 2. M.E./M Tech in RF and Microwave Engg. / Microwave and Optical Engg. / Microwave Engg. / Microwaves.	
807	02	B.E./B Tech in Metallurgy Engg. / Metallurgical & Materials Engg. / Metallurgy and Material Technology / Metallurgical Engg. / Material Science & Technology.	B.E. / B Tech or equivalent should be with an aggregate minimum of 65% marks (average of all semesters) or CGPA 6.84 on a 10 point scale. AMIE / Grade IETE candidates should have minimum of 65% marks or CGPA 6.84 on a 10 point scale in Section B alone.

Note: The educational qualification (B.E/B.Tech/M.E/M.Tech) should have been completed within the stipulated duration of the course as prescribed by the University.
Age limit as on **12.05.2026** is 30 years for Post Nos. 803 to 806. For Post No. 807, the age limit as on **12.05.2026** is 28 years. Ex-Servicemen, Departmental candidates and Persons With Benchmark Disabilities (PWBD) are eligible for upper age relaxation as per Govt. of India orders. Applications will be received **only through on-line**. Interested candidates may visit the website **www.lpsc.gov.in** for detailed information and filling-up on-line application form. For this purpose, the on-line recruitment portal will be available from **1400 hrs on 28.04.2026 to 1400 hrs on 12.05.2026**.

BEIRUT

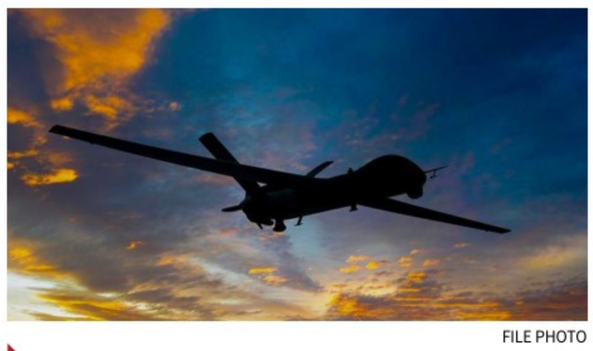
'UN peacekeeper dies of wounds suffered in Lebanon last month'

REUTERS

The UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon, UNIFIL, said on Friday that an Indonesian blue helmet died of wounds from an attack on his base. "UNIFIL deplores the passing today of Corporal Rico Pramudia, who was critically injured following a projectile explosion in his base in Adchit Al Qusayr on March 29," the force said. AFP

KUWAIT CITY

Kuwait says two drones coming from Iraq hit near border posts



FILE PHOTO

The Kuwaiti military said on Friday that two drones coming from the Iraq struck northern border posts, causing damage but no casualties. The military said in a statement on X that two of Kuwait's border posts were targeted in a criminal act of aggression involving two explosive-laden drones guided by fibre-optic cables. AFP

TEHRAN

Tehran airport to resume international flights from today

AP

International flights from Tehran's Imam Khomeini Airport will resume on Saturday, the ISNA news agency reported, days after Iran reopened its airspace. The first flights to resume will be to Istanbul and Muscat, the announcement said. Iran's airspace was slammed shut after the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran began on February 28. AFP

PESHAWAR

Pak. military kills 22 in northwest clashes, child dead in crossfire

AP

Pakistani security personnel shot dead 22 alleged militants in clashes in the northwest this week, the military said on Friday. A ten-year-old child was killed during the exchange of fire in Khyber district. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed sorrow at the martyrdom of a child in the unprovoked firing by the terrorists. AFP

Araghchi travelling to Pak. for ceasefire talks with U.S.

Tehran says the Minister will go to Pakistan, Oman and Russia to discuss 'bilateral matters and regional developments; Iran has an important choice, a chance to make a deal, says Pentagon chief

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Army tightens security ahead of the expected U.S.–Iran peace talks in Islamabad. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said he would travel to Pakistan on Friday. AFP

Iran's top diplomat was heading on Friday to Pakistan, where officials have been trying to get the U.S. and Iran to convene for a second round of ceasefire negotiations.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote on X that he was on his way to Pakistan, Oman and Russia on a trip focused on "bilateral matters and regional developments".

The trip comes as much of the world has been on edge over a war that has snarled crucial energy exports through the Strait of Hormuz, clouded the global economic picture, and left thousands dead across West Asia.

U.S. envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner will head Saturday to Pakistan for a new round of talks with Iran on ending the war, the White House said.

"I can confirm Special Envoy Witkoff and Jared Kushner will be off to Pakistan again tomorrow morning to engage in talks," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told Fox News on Friday.

Earlier, two Pakistani officials said Mr. Araghchi was heading to Pakistan with a small government delegation. Islamabad has sought to reinject momentum into the negotiations between Iran and the U.S., which had been set to resume this week but did not materialise.

Separately Friday, the White House said President Donald Trump issued a 90-day extension to the Jones Act waiver, making it easier for non-American vessels to transport oil and natural gas in the wake of the war. Mr. Trump first announced a 60-day waiver in mid-March, a move seen as helping to stabilise energy prices and making it easier for more ships to travel to the U.S. following the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

The post on social media by a White House press aide said: "New data compiled since the initial waiver was issued revealed that significantly more supply was able to reach U.S. ports faster." Pakistan has been trying to get U.S. and Iranian officials back to the table after Mr. Trump this week announced an indefinite extension of the ceasefire with Iran, honouring Islamabad's request for more time for diplomatic outreach.

Tensions in the strait

That hasn't lowered tensions in the strait the strategic waterway through which a fifth of the world's oil and natural gas is shipped during peacetime.

Iran has kept its stranglehold on traffic through the strait, attacking three ships earlier this week, while the U.S. has maintained its blockade of Iranian ports and ordered the military to "shoot and kill" small boats that could be placing mines.

"Iran has an important choice, a chance to make a deal, a good deal, a wise deal," Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth told reporters on Friday. He said a second U.S. aircraft carrier will join the blockade in a few days.

China's DeepSeek releases new AI model

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Chinese startup DeepSeek released a new artificial intelligence model with "drastically reduced" costs on Friday, more than a year after it stunned the world with a low-cost reasoning model that matched the capabilities of U.S. rivals.

The AI race has intensified the rivalry between China and the U.S., with the White House on Thursday accusing Chinese entities of a massive effort to steal artificial intelligence technology. Beijing called the claim "baseless".

DeepSeek-V4 "features an ultra-long context", a statement said. V4 supports a context length of one million "tokens," or small components of text including words or punctuation, putting it on par with Google's Gemini.

U.S. soldier charged with using classified intel to win Polymarket bet released

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

A U.S. special forces soldier who took part in the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro will be released on bond on charges accusing him of using classified information about the operation to win more than $400,000 in an online prediction market, a federal magistrate said Friday.

The magistrate in North Carolina said he would allow Gannon Ken Van Dyke to be released and told him to report to a New York federal courthouse by Tuesday to continue his case there.

Mr. Van Dyke said little during the nearly hourlong hearing, during which he was appointed a federal public defender who declined to comment afterward. The $250,000 unsecured bond did not require Mr. Van Dyke to put up any money.

Polymarket flagged insider trading and alerted the U.S. Justice Department.

Federal prosecutors say Mr. Van Dyke used his access to classified information about the operation to capture Mr. Maduro in January to win money on the prediction market site Polymarket.

Mr. Van Dyke, 38, was involved in the planning and execution of capturing Maduro, according to the New York federal prosecutor's office. He signed nondisclosure agreements promising to not divulge "any classified or sensitive information" related to the operations, but prosecutors say he used what he knew to make a series of bets related to Mr. Maduro being out of power by January 31.

"This involved a U.S. soldier who allegedly took advantage of his position to profit off of a righteous military operation," FBI Director Kash Patel said in a social media post.

Polymarket, one of the largest prediction markets, said it found someone trading on classified government information, alerted the Justice Department and "cooperated with their investigation."

China targets European firms over Taiwan sales

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China has imposed restrictions on seven European entities related to the defence sector, Beijing said Friday, citing their involvement in alleged arms sales or "collusion" with Taiwan.

The measures, which took effect immediately, are needed "to safeguard national security and fulfill international obligations such as non-proliferation", the Commerce Ministry said in a statement.

The curbs apply to firms including Belgian guns manufacturer FN Herstal and German defence electronics firm Hensoldt, as well as the national aerospace research and development centre in the Czech Republic, VZLU Aerospace. They prohibit exports of "dual-use items" to the seven named entities or transfers of such items that originated in China by "foreign organisations and individuals", the statement said. Applications could be submitted to the Commerce Ministry "in special circumstances where export is truly necessary", it added.

In a separate statement, an unnamed Commerce Ministry spokesperson said that the measures target "only a small number of EU entities involved in military-related activities, specifically those that have participated in arms sales to Taiwan or engaged in collusion with Taiwan". "Law-abiding and trustworthy EU entities have absolutely no cause for concern," it added.

Bill to allow assisted dying in England and Wales is set to fall as time runs out

Associated Press
LONDON

Campaigners say they intend to bring the Bill back in the next parliamentary session

A proposed Bill to allow terminally ill adults in England and Wales to choose to end their lives is set to fall Friday as parliamentary time runs out, nearly a year since elected members of parliaments gave their backing.

Though the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill was passed by the House of Commons last June, the U.K.'s revising chamber, the House of Lords, has effectively talked it out since then.

Proponents of what has been termed " assisted dying " – sometimes referred to as "assisted suicide" – hoped it would mark the biggest change to social policy in the U.K. since abortion was partially legalised in 1967.

But opponents in the House of Lords have managed to hold up its passing by filing more than 1,200 amendments to the Bill. That is believed to be a record high number for a piece of legislation that was tabled by a backbencher rather than by the government. Bills proposed by backbenchers can only be debated on a Friday, limiting the time available. With the current session coming to an end next week, the Bill will fail. Each five-year parliamentary term is subdivided into a number of sessions of the government's calling, and bills can only become law if they are discussed and voted on within a single session.

Campaigners for assisted dying have expressed their anger at the sight of unelected politicians holding up the will of the elected chamber. They have insisted that they intend to bring the Bill back in the next parliamentary session.

The sponsor of the Bill in the House of Lords, Charlie Falconer, said he felt "despondent" that a piece of legislation, which he said was "so important to so many, has not failed on its merits, but failed as a result of procedural wrangling". He said many terminally ill people and their relatives "have shown such courage and forbearance" and have been "utterly bewildered by the way we have behaved".

The Bill that's been making its way through parliament over the past 18 months or so had proposed allowing adults in England and Wales, with fewer than six months to live, to apply for an assisted death subject to the approval of two doctors and an expert panel.

KANNUR International Airport
KANNUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED

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E-Tenders are invited by Managing Director, KIAL for Selection of an Agency to Develop, Operate & Manage Car Park and Toll Booths at Kannur International Airport. For more details, please visit - www.etenders.kerala.gov.in Bid Submission Last Date : 6 May 2026, 1400 Hrs
E-Tender ID: 2026_KIAL_848368_1

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(भारत सरकार का उद्यम)
COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

तिथि/Date: 25-04-2026

निविदा सूचना / TENDER NOTICE

कोचीन शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड (सीएसएल) द्वारा कोच्ची स्थित सीएसएल परिसर में निर्माणाधीन पोतों के कार्यों हेतु निम्नलिखित निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है
Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) invites the following tender enquiry for works in ships under construction in CSL premises, Kochi:

क्र.सं. SL.No	विवरण / Description	जेपनिक निविदा आईडी GePNIC Tender ID:
1	4 बहुउद्देशीय जहाजों में ऑनबोर्ड पाइपिंग और संरचनात्मक साज-सज्जा का कार्य। Onboard Piping And Structural Outfitting Works in 04 Nos Of Multi-Purpose Vessels	2026_CSL_275677_1
2	सेवा संचालन पोत की सतह की तैयारी और रंगाई Surface Preparation & Painting Of Service Operation Vessel	2026_CSL_275676_1
3	दो बहुउद्देशीय पोत की सतह की तैयारी और रंगाई Surface Preparation & Painting Of 2 Nos of Multi-Purpose Vessels	2026_CSL_275647_1

निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय: 1500 बजे, 14 मई 2026 है। The last date and time for receipt of bids is 1500 hrs IST, 14 May 2026.
निविदा के विवरण और शर्तें हमारी वेबसाइट www.cochinshipyard.in या https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app से प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।
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दिनांक/Dated : 24-04-2026

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following works.

1. वीआरसी, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में एविऑनिकी एंटिटि के उन्नत वीडियो प्रतिबिंबन प्रयोगशाला के लिए भवन सं वी-44 का ऊर्द्धाधर विस्तार (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Vertical Extension of building no. V-44 for Advanced Video Imaging Lab for Avionics Entity at VRC, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works) / NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/05/2026-27 Dt. 22.04.2026 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C: ₹ 137.53 लाख/Lakhs)
डाउनलोड करने की अवधि / Period for downloading: दिनांक 23.04.2026 को 10.00 बजे/ hrs. से/ to दिनांक 07.05.2026, 23.00 बजे/ hrs.
2. टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में एनजीएलवी एविऑनिकी एवं समाकलन सुविधा के लिए भवन का निर्माण (सिविल, यांत्रिक तथा विद्युत कार्य) / Construction of building for NGLV Avionics and Integration Facility at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil, Mechanical & Electrical works) / NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/03/2026-27 Dt. 22.04.2026 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C: ₹ 909.89 लाख/Lakhs)
डाउनलोड करने की अवधि / Period for downloading: दिनांक 24.04.2026 को 10.00 बजे/hrs. से/to दिनांक 14.05.2026, 23.00 बजे/hrs.

इच्छुक निविदाकार ब्यौरों के लिए www.tenderwizard.in/isro या www.isro.gov.in देखें। Interested tenderers may visit www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in for details.

Sd/- प्रधान, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / Head, CMG, VSSC

APPOINTMENT

NIRDPR
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Govt. of India proposes to engage the services of suitable candidates for various positions on contract basis for providing support in implementation of Annual Action Plan (AAP) under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA programme.

Centre for Wage Employment and Livelihoods (CWEL) of NIRDPR invites online applications for below mentioned contractual positions:

Sl. No	Name of the Position / Area	No. of Positions	Remuneration Per Month (Rs.)
1	Junior Fellow – Capacity Building	2	75,000
2	Junior Fellow – Works (NRM Convergence)	1	75,000
3	Junior Fellow – Infrastructure	1	75,000
4	Junior Fellow – Social Audit	1	75,000
5	Research Associates	2	60,000
6	Academic Associate – Capacity Building	3	60,000
7	Academic Associate – Infrastructure	1	60,000
8	Academic Associate – Social Audit	1	60,000
9	Junior Accountant (Finance)	1	60,000
10	Senior Accountant cum Administrator (Finance)	1	1,20,000
Total		14	

For Eligibility Criteria, Online submission of application and other details please visit: http://career.nirdpr.in/
Last date for submission of online application is 11/05/2026

Advt.No.2/2026
File No: NIRDPR/AAP-MGNREGA/EXTENSION/2023
Comp.no. 16018

Sd/-
Assistant Director Administration (Section-I)

RECORD

Sai Sudharsan goes past Gayle, becomes fastest to 2,000 IPL runs

K. MURALI KUMAR

Gujarat Titans opener Sai Sudharsan has become the fastest to notch up 2,000 runs in the IPL. The left-hander achieved the feat during his century knock against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Friday. The 24-year-old took just 47 innings to reach the milestone and bettered the effort of Chris Gayle (48).

READY TO FIRE

Connolly returns in time for Punjab's clash against Delhi

FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Cooper Connolly will be available for PBKS' clash against DC in IPL 2026 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Saturday. The 22-year-old southpaw had returned to Australia for scans on his back after the game against LSG. The all-rounder has played a vital role with the willow by scoring 223 runs in six matches.

CLEARING THE AIR

Jayawardene reveals reason behind concussion sub call

EMMANUAL YOGINI

MI head coach Mahela Jayawardene has clarified the circumstances leading to Shardul Thakur coming in as a concussion substitute for Mitchell Santner during its IPL clash against CSK. "He (Santner) felt dizzy. We requested [for a concussion substitute]. It was the discretion of the match referee and umpires. They allowed Shardul".

BALANCED APPROACH

Samson was smart in the way he built his innings, says Raina

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Sanju Samson was brilliant because he built his innings smartly. He took his time early, played with a straight bat, and respected the good deliveries, especially against someone like Jasprit Bumrah. At the same time, he was quick to capitalise on anything loose. That balance between patience and intent stood out — Suresh Raina.

Kohli-Padikkal show eclipses Sai Sudharsan's ton

The RCB batting mainstay makes the most of a first-ball reprieve while the southpaw gives another glimpse of his evolution in the shortest format; GT stutters at the death after a dream start

IPL-19

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

In present-day T20 cricket, a target around 200 is at best a fighting total. At the batting-friendly M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, such a figure further shrinks in value, like money in an inflation-ravaged economy.

On Friday, Royal Challengers Bengaluru confirmed it once more by coasting to a five-wicket victory – with seven balls to spare – over Gujarat Titans to record a fifth success this IPL and regain second spot.

Big stand

Set 206 to win, RCB were propelled by first-rate batting performances from Virat Kohli (81, 44b, 8x4, 4x6) and Devdutt Padikkal (55, 27b, 2x4, 6x6), with the duo putting on 115 runs from 59 balls for the second wicket.

That partnership would have been a non-starter if Washington Sundar had held on to a dolly at mid-wicket to dismiss Kohli off the first ball.

But instead, much to the delight of the home faithful, Kohli indulged in some brilliant strokeplay, with his wristy sixes off Kagiso Rabada and Jason Holder standing out.

Padikkal gave another glimpse of his evolution in the shortest format with some belligerent but classy hitting. The two jaw-dropping flicks off Rabada and Prasidh Krishna into the crowd were the best examples.

Earlier, B. Sai Sudharsan scored his third IPL century (100, 58b, 11x4, 5x6), and he and skipper Shubman Gill put on their highest opening-wicket partnership this campaign (128).

The southpaw, after negotiating a few testing deliveries from the deceitfully crafty hand of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, let loose with an uncharacteristically unorthodox scooped boundary off Josh Hazlewood.

The 24-year-old then slashed the Aussie for a six, scooped Romario Shepherd for another maximum, and cleared the boundary twice off spinner Krunal Pandya.

The more pedigreed Gill was happy to play second fiddle, facing just seven balls in the PowerPlay and 18 in the first 10 overs.

Despite being at 104 for no loss at the halfway mark, Titans did not capitalise. Four balls into the 13th, Gill was caught at long-on off Suyash Sharma. Sai Sudharsan followed his leader back after being caught and bowled by Hazlewood.

Suyash, Bhuvneshwar and Hazlewood conceded just 17 runs from overs 17 to 19 to slam the brakes fully. In the 20th, the burly Holder blasted 17 runs, but it was not enough to upend conventional wisdom at the Chinnaswamy.

Making merry: Kohli and Padikkal feasted on the Titans bowlers after Sai Sudharsan sent the Royal Challengers fielders on a leather hunt. K. MURALI KUMAR

Next assignment

GT: April 26 vs. CSK Chennai, 3.30 p.m.

RCB: April 27 vs. DC Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS

B. Sai Sudharsan c & b Hazlewood 100 *(58b, 11x4, 5x6)*, Shubman Gill c Padikkal b Suyash 32 *(24b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Jos Buttler c Hazlewood b Bhuvneshwar 25 *(16b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Washington Sundar (not out) 19 *(12b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Jason Holder (not out) 23 *(10b, 1x4, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-3, w-3): 6; Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 205.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-128 (Gill, 12.4 overs), 2-160 (Sai Sudharsan, 15.3), 3-177 (Buttler, 17.4).

RCB BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 4-0-31-1, Hazlewood 4-0-40-1, Rasikh 3-0-28-0, Krunal 4-0-50-0, Shepherd 1-0-17-0, Suyash 4-0-36-1.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Jacob Bethell **(Impact Player for Suyash)** c Shahrukh b Siraj 14 *(10b, 3x4)*, Virat Kohli b Holder 81 *(44b, 8x4, 4x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal b Rashid 55 *(27b, 2x4, 6x6)*, Rajat Patidar c Washington b Suthar 8 *(5b, 1x6)*, Jitesh Sharma c Suthar b Rashid 10 *(6b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Tim David (not out) 10 *(9b, 1x6)*, Krunal Pandya (not out) 23 *(12b, 3x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-2, w-3): 5; Total (for five wkts. in 18.5 overs): 206.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-26 (Bethell, 2.6), 2-141 (Padikkal, 12.5), 3-154 (Kohli, 13.4), 4-171 (Jitesh, 14.6), 5-173 (Patidar, 15.3).

TITANS BOWLING

Siraj 3-0-25-1, Rabada 4-0-45-0, Holder 3.5-0-35-1, Prasidh **(Impact Player for Tewatia)** 2-0-31-0, Rashid 4-0-49-2, Suthar 2-0-19-1.

Toss: RCB; **PoM:** Kohli.

RCB won by five wickets with seven balls to spare.

Axar's Capitals face an uphill task against Shreyas' Kings

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

In an alternate universe, Shreyas Iyer and Ricky Ponting could have still been the men in charge at Delhi Capitals. Shreyas spent seven seasons at the franchise and led it to its first and only IPL final in 2020. Ponting was head coach then and also lent his services for seven years.

In both cases, the exits didn't appear entirely amicable.

When a shoulder injury ruled Shreyas out of the first half of the 2021 season, Rishabh Pant became the stand-in skipper.

The middle-order batter from Mumbai, however, wasn't handed back the leadership reins once he regained fitness for the second half, and subsequently parted ways altogether. With Ponting, who was coach from 2018 to 2024, Capitals attributed the Australian's lack of availability in India through the year as a sore point.

Cut to the present, DC can only cast a wistful sigh at those calls as Shreyas and Ponting return to the Arun Jaitley Stadium as captain and coach of a red-hot Punjab Kings for Saturday's clash.

Since their reunion at PBKS in 2025, they have transformed a floundering unit into a formidable force, enabling it to exude the flair and aggression that characterises the duo. After a runner-up finish in 2025, Punjab has been just as dominant this season, notching up five wins in six matches (one no-result).

Capitals, to the contrary, are facing a familiar mid-table crisis.

After two wins to begin the campaign, frailties have surfaced in recent matches.

A case in point was their last match, where Axar Patel and Co. suffered a 47-run defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad.

While the bowlers conceded 242, the bigger concern is the batting unit, which is yet to click as a whole.

For Shreyas and Ponting, then, this is a chance to consolidate Punjab's position, and remind DC of the reality that both these men have moved on to greener pastures.

Talking tactics: PBKS coach Ponting will expect Stoinis to deliver when the situation demands. R.V. MOORTHY

> From the T20 World Cup to now, we haven't seen an absolute belter here. It will probably be really similar. Hopefully it is really low, ragging and 120 plays 120. That will be great
>
> **STUBBS**
> Capitals batter

Today's matches

Delhi, 3.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 34
DC 17 | PBKS 17
PREVIOUS MEETING
DC won by six wickets, 2025

Jaipur, 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 22
RR 9 | SRH 13
PREVIOUS MEETING
SRH won by 57 runs, 2026

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

Resurgent RR hosts high-flying SRH

Pranay Rajiv
JAIPUR

A fortnight is a long time in a fast-moving tournament like the Indian Premier League.

Two weeks ago, Rajasthan Royals was on top of the world, having won its first four IPL 2026 games. Around the same time, Sunrisers Hyderabad was floundering, having lost four of its five games.

But, as the two teams come together at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Saturday, for Jaipur's first game of the season, the narrative has transformed.

Over their last three games, the Royals have tasted the bitterness of the law of averages, as their seemingly hypersonic top-order has screeched to a near halt. Consecutive failures by openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Suryavanshi have denied Royals an early launch, exposing their undercooked middle-order.

Incidentally, the first team to apply the brakes on the JaiSurya duo was SRH. Riding on four-wicket hauls from debutant pacers Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain, Sunrisers had handed Royals their first defeat of the campaign.

Royals then suffered another away loss, to Kolkata Knight Riders, before recovering with a hard-fought win against Lucknow Super Giants.

Meanwhile, SRH has added two more victories to its kitty – against Delhi Capitals and Chennai Super Kings – and now finds itself fourth in the table.

Adding fuel to its momentum, full-time captain Pat Cummins has returned from injury and will make his first appearance of the season on Saturday.

For rival skipper Riyan Parag, IPL 2026 has been a mixed bag. With the bat, he has cut a sorry figure, aggregating just 81 runs from seven innings.

But, on the leadership front, Parag has shone, marshalling his side adeptly to win five out of seven games. A win on Saturday would be a perfect homecoming gift from Royals to the Jaipur crowd that had to wait half a season to witness its home team in flesh.

> I would have been concerned if Parag wasn't hitting the ball well. I think he's hitting it really well
>
> **SANGAKKARA**
> RR coach

X-factor: Cummins' availability will further boost coach Vettori's spirits. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Punjab Kings	6	5	0	1	11	1.420
Royal Challengers	7	5	2	0	10	1.101
Rajasthan Royals	7	5	2	0	10	0.790
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	4	3	0	8	0.820
Chennai Super Kings	7	3	4	0	6	0.118
Delhi Capitals	6	3	3	0	6	-0.130
Gujarat Titans	7	3	4	0	6	-0.790
Mumbai Indians	7	2	5	0	4	-0.736
Lucknow Super Giants	7	2	5	0	4	-1.277
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	1	5	1	3	-0.879

INBRIEF

Akshay reigns supreme at DP World Players Championship

Akshay Sharma carded an error-free eight-under 64 to emerge victorious at the DP World Players Championship in Nuh, Haryana. The 35-year-old golfer (70-65-70-64; 19-under 269), who clinched the title by a slender one-shot margin, rose to fifth on the 2026 PGTI Order of Merit. It was his first title after Panchkula triumph in Nov. 2020. Dhruv Sheoran (69-66-66-69 – 270) was second and Jamal Hossain (67-70-68-69 – 274) third.

Abhay enters maiden PSA Gold-level quarters in Zurich

Abhay Singh registered a notable win over Egyptian world No. 13 and seventh seed Aly Abou Eleinen 12-10, 11-9 to enter his maiden PSA Gold-level event quarterfinals at the Grasshopper Cup squash in Zurich. In the opening round, Abhay beat Swiss David Bernet 11-9, 9-11, 11-8, while Ramit Tandon lost to Egypt's Fares Dessouky 6-11, 9-11.

Villarreal strengthens grip on third spot, Sevilla on the brink

Villarreal moved closer to securing third place in LaLiga with a 1-1 draw at Real Oviedo on Thursday, while Sevilla lost at Levante to be on the brink of the relegation zone in 17th spot.

The results: Levante 2 (Romero 38, 90+3) bt Sevilla 0.
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Camello 87) bt Espanyol 0.
Real Oviedo 1 (Ilyas 69) drew with Villarreal 1 (Pepe 13-pen).

Turkish GP makes a return to F1 fold after a six-year break

The Turkish Grand Prix will return to the Formula One calendar after a six-year hiatus in 2027, it was announced on Friday. The race – which was held from 2005-11 and then 2020-21 – will take place on the Istanbul Park circuit. This time around, it is guaranteed a run of at least five years. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan launched the event on Friday to celebrate the announcement.

Drazic and Yasir score in Goa's victory over NorthEast

FC Goa beat NorthEast United FC 2-0 in their ISL clash at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on Friday. The Gaurs took the lead through Dejan Drazic (20) before Mohammed Yasir (90+3) sealed the three points.

LIVE TELECAST

Golf: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 10 a.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 5, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
LaLiga: FanCode, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Sunday)
Serie A: DAZN, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Sunday)
IFL: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 6.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 7 & 10 p.m.
South Africa Women vs India Women: 4th T20I, Star Sports 3 & JioHotstar, 9.30 p.m.

PowerPlay bowling is no problem for Akeal

The CSK spinner says it is about being brave in the initial phase and reveals how Bravo's advice helped; feels it's about assessing conditions

IPL-19

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Spin is king: Akeal had the MI batters in knots to deliver a much-needed win for the Super Kings. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Akeal Hosein doesn't quite fit the conventional mould of a PowerPlay bowler. A left-arm spinner entrusted with the new ball in a format dictated by power-hitters, Akeal has turned that role into an advantage – as he showed in Chennai Super Kings' emphatic win over Mumbai Indians.

His spell of four for 17 not only broke the back of the MI chase but also underlined his growing influence this season. Having featured just once in IPL in 2023, he has made rapid strides, with his ability to read surfaces quickly and adapt lengths emerging as his x-factor.

"I've been trying to pick the coaches' and players' brains on red soil, black soil... what works where," Akeal said, explaining the homework behind his execution. The key, he added, lies in making quick assessments – understanding pace off the surface, which deliveries grip and which skid – and relaying that information to his fellow bowlers.

Bowling in the PowerPlay, he admitted, comes with inherent risk. With only two fielders outside the circle, margins are thin. But Hosein's approach is rooted in clarity and courage.

"You know the batters are going to come at you... it's about being brave," he said, before revealing a piece of advice from Dwayne Bravo, the West Indies T20 legend who is now a mentor with Kolkata Knight Riders, that has stayed with him. "If you are going to get hit, at least get hit to the two fielders protecting the boundary."

If his bowling has been about control, his celebrations have added a touch of theatre.

The now-familiar "mask" gesture after wickets, he insisted, carries no deeper meaning.

CSK will be hoping for Akeal's mask celebrations to continue for the remaining season.

Sweet success: Arjun and Hariharan celebrate after sealing the tie with a convincing win over Lindeman and Yakura. X@BAI_MEDIA

Mixed luck for Indian men and women in opening tie

THOMAS & UBER CUP

Press Trust of India
HORSENS (DENMARK)

Lakshya Sen endured a tough loss but Ayush Shetty and the doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty registered wins as 2022 champion India notched up a commanding 4-1 win over Canada in its opening Group A tie of the Thomas Cup Finals, here on Friday.

After Lakshya's spirited effort ended in a 21-18, 19-21, 10-21 loss to World No. 13 Victor Lai, World No. 4 Satwik and Chirag levelled the tie with a dominant 21-10, 21-11 win over Jonathan Bing Tsan Lai and Kevin Lee.

The 20-year-old Ayush, runner-up at the recent Asia Championships, then outwitted World No. 33 Brian Yang 21-13, 21-17 in 39 minutes to hand India a 2-1 lead.

The second doubles pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and M.R. Arjun sealed the tie for India with a convincing 21-7, 21-15 victory over Ty Alexander Lindeman and Nyl Yakura.

Second behind China

K. Srikanth then outsmarted World No. 77 Joshua Nguyen 21-17, 21-12 in the inconsequential fifth match as India wrapped up the tie 4-1 to be placed second in the table behind China. China, 11-time winner and defending champion, beat Australia 5-0.

The top two teams from each of the four groups will qualify for the quarterfinals.

In the Uber Cup for women, Denmark rallied to down India 3-2 in a hard-fought encounter.

The results: Thomas Cup: India 4 bt Canada 1 (Lakshya Sen lost to Victor Lai 21-18, 19-21, 10-21; Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Jonathan Bing Tsan Lai & Kevin Lee 21-10, 21-11; Ayush Shetty bt Brian Yang 21-13, 21-17; Hariharan Amsakarunan & M.R. Arjun bt Ty Alexander Lindeman & Nyl Yakura 21-7, 21-15; K. Srikanth bt Joshua Nguyen 21-17, 21-12); China 5 bt Australia 0.
Uber Cup: India 2 lost to Denmark 3 (P.V. Sindhu bt Line Christophersen 21-13, 18-21, 21-17; Unnati Hooda lost to Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt 12-21, 23-25; Priya Konjengbam & Shruti Mishra lost to Amalie Cecilie Kudsk & Mette Werge 17-21, 21-11, 21-23; Tanvi Sharma lost to Amalie Schulz 21-19, 16-21, 16-21; Tanisha Crasto & Sindhu bt Alexandra Boje & Christine Busch 19-21, 17-14 (retd).

Ham in the van; Bhullar moves to tied-third spot

SINGAPORE OPEN

S. Shrivathsan
SINGAPORE

On the way up: Bhullar fought back well to climb up the standings. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jeongwoo Ham of South Korea built on the early momentum to retain his top spot, while India's Gaganjeet Bhullar moved to tied third after a timely recovery in the Singapore Open second round at the par-71 Sentosa Golf Club Serapong course here on Friday.

Ham, one of two overnight toppers, carded three-under 68 to be the sole leader at the halfway mark with a two-stroke cushion (10-under 132). After a sedate start on the front nine, the Korean managed three birdies - on holes 10, 12 and 18 - while bogeying on par-four hole 15, an act which did not prove costly in the end.

Thailand's Jazz Janewattananond, lying tied 13th when the curtains were drawn on Thursday, surged to second following a five-under 66 (overall score of eight-under 134). Launching himself into action at tee 10, 2019 title-winner Jazz had an eventful front nine that included five birdies and a bogey.

Bhullar, who continued to be the top-performing Indian, shared third place with Japan's Tomohiro Ishizaka at seven-under 135. The 37-year-old appeared to lose steam after he bogeyed on holes 14 and 15 - his first two drops of the International Series event - but he fought back with two birdies on the final three holes for three-under 68.

"I played pretty well in the first two rounds. It is way too early (when asked if he is targeting the crown). Thirty-six holes are still to be played, so there is a lot of golf left. Things do usually get tougher in the last two rounds here," said Bhullar, who had stood at T4 after Round 1.

Besides Bhullar, Pukhraj Singh Gill (141, T38) and Karandeep Kochhar (142, T43) made the weekend cut among Indians, while eight golfers from the country bowed out. Jeev Milkha Singh retired from the second round due to a back issue that had hampered his performance on the first day.

Ekpharit Wu of Thailand fell from joint first to tied 19th, delivering four-over 75, which comprised one double bogey and four bogeys.

Top scores: 132 (64, 68): Jeongwoo Ham (Kor); **134** (68, 66): Jazz Janewattananond (Tha); **135** (67, 68): Tomohiro Ishizaka (Jpn) and Gaganjeet Bhullar (Ind); **136** (68, 68): Jack Thompson (Aus).

(The writer is in Singapore at the invitation of The International Series).

'Many reasons behind moving Bharath Classic to Morocco'

S. Shrivathsan
SINGAPORE

As bizarre as it may seem, the upcoming Bharath Classic will not be hosted in India, the country after which the tournament was named.

The Asian Tour returned to India in 2025 with the inaugural Bharath Classic in Ahmedabad in November, only to disappear the following year. The next edition of the $500,000 tournament, co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL), will be held in Casablanca, Morocco, from June 4 to 7.

Cho Minn Thant, Asian Tour commissioner and CEO, said the organisers decided to shift base owing to factors like schedule congestion and proximity.

"Looking at the back-end schedule, from September to November, we have about 11 events in 12 weeks. So, it was difficult to fit Bharath Classic in that window because we did not want it to clash with a bigger tournament," said Cho on the sidelines of the Singapore Open.

"We noticed that the IGPL had an African strategy. Its CEO Uttam Singh Mundy spoke about having an African swing. I asked him: 'Why not have the Bharath Classic in Morocco, just before the International Series Morocco (scheduled in Rabat from June 11 to 14)?' It works out for our players as they get to play in both".

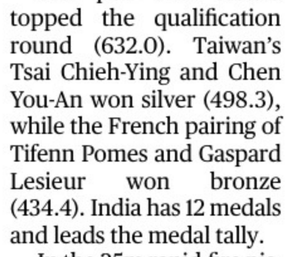
He also admitted that the conflict in West Asia threw a spanner in the continental body's works.

Injured Alcaraz to miss French Open

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Two-time reigning French Open champion Carlos Alcaraz said on Friday he will not play at this year's tournament as he recovers from a wrist injury.

"We have decided that the most prudent thing to do is to be cautious and not participate in Rome or Roland Garros," he said on social media. Alcaraz surrendered the World No. 1 spot in the ATP rankings to Jannik Sinner following his defeat to the Italian in the Monte-Carlo final.



Shambhavi and Divyanshu posted a world record 499.9. @ISSF_OFFICIAL

Shambhavi, Divyanshu triumph

Press Trust of India
CAIRO

Shambhavi Kshirsagar and Divyanshu Dewangan clinched the 10m air rifle mixed team gold with a world record score of 499.9 as India claimed its fourth gold in the ISSF Junior World Cup here on Friday.

The pair had earlier topped the qualification round (632.0). Taiwan's Tsai Chieh-Ying and Chen You-An won silver (498.3), while the French pairing of Tifenn Pomes and Gaspard Lesieur won bronze (434.4). India has 12 medals and leads the medal tally.

In the 25m rapid-fire pistol men junior event, Sameer made the finals cut with an effort of 573 in qualifying, which gave him second spot. France's Arnaud Gamaleri posted a table-topping 589, which equalled the junior world record.

Sameer finished seventh eventually, scoring seven hits in the first three five-shot series of the eight-series final. Gamaleri took gold with 29 hits.

Senior women's hockey coach Marijne prepared for the tough year ahead

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

While there is ambiguity around the composition of the Indian men's hockey team for the World Cup and Asian Games, the women, with a tighter schedule, have slipped under the radar.

Before the two big events, the Indian women also have the Nations Cup in June, equally important to try and earn back their spot in the FIH Pro League. Coach Sjoerd Marijne, however, is unperturbed by it all.

"It was the same in 2018, and we also had the Commonwealth Games back then, so we had four tournaments. And we worked from tournament to tournament with the Asian Games being most important but that doesn't mean we don't want to do well at others," Marijne said during an interaction with select media on Friday.

"I believe we can perform in every tournament and it doesn't matter for the next one. We played the quarterfinals at the 2018 World Cup but then we also did really good at the Asian Games, winning silver. So that's the way we're going to do."

Marijne was optimistic after the recent four-match series against Argentina. "I think we are moving in the right direction. We were training different kind of systems and I think the progress has been really positive.

Sjoerd Marijne. FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

> I believe we can perform in every tournament and it doesn't matter for the next one

"The important thing was the benchmark set by Argentina. We know now what is required to be able to play against the World No. 2 and be successful. And they struggled sometimes with our speed, that is something I'm quite happy with," he explained.

Newly-appointed junior women's coach Tim White is at the other extreme with barely any international assignments through the year. White and Marijne have taken to working together during national camps to build a synergy between the senior and junior sides.

"I always saw India as having a lot of potential to be a really world-class team and the challenge of helping the team get to that point and also supporting the seniors is exciting," White said in his first media interaction since taking charge.

"For any team to have sustainable success, you have to have a good collaboration between the senior and junior programmes. I'm already working with Sjoerd, we're in the same environment, we share a lot." White, however, did admit that the group's fitness was below-par. "I've observed that the group is lower physically than where I was in Belgium or even Australia. We are going to have to work hard to be able to compete with the best and have a flow of athletes into the senior programme. I need to help the group understand the intensity they need to train at."

KERALA CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRI VALUE CHAIN MODERNISATION PROJECT (KERA)

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Project Director, Kerala Climate Resilient Agri Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) Project (The World Bank Project ID No.: P178254) invites expression of interest (EoI) for the following Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) from eligible consultants:

1. Consulting services: Hiring of Productive Alliance Expert (International Consultant)

Last date of submission of EoI is **23rd May 2026, 11:00 AM**

The tender Document can be downloaded from KERA website **(https://kera.kerala.gov.in/notifications)** starting from 24th April 2026, 9:00 AM.

Sd/- Project Director

K-tech | STARTUP KARNATAKA

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Ref: ITBT/4/MDA/26-SO-ITBT SEC

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), invite applications from Industry partners/Association, Private/State/Central Universities and Centre of Excellences (CoEs) set up by Government of Karnataka or Government of India and Research Institutions to conduct technology Bootcamp sessions across Karnataka, under LEAP (Local Economy Accelerator Program).

The interested Industry partners/Association, Private/State/Central Universities, Centre of Excellences (CoEs) and Research Institutions are required to submit the application in the prescribed form along with the necessary enclosures available in the Department website: https://eitbt.karnataka.gov.in/ and apply in online form link :https://forms.gle/MobWKeJBqDRLdUub8 along with Annexures (printed on letter head) should be emailed to: leap.bootcamp2026@gmail.com.

Call for proposals document can be accessed on the Department website

The deadline for submission of application is **05/05/2026, 05:00 PM.** Refer Call for Proposals document for eligibility criteria, declaration letter and other conditions.

Sd/-
Managing Director
KITS

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire, # 59, 3rd Floor, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020. Tel: 080-22231007
E-mail: leap.bootcamp2026@gmail.com

DIPR/CP/356/AKAR/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Special Division, Shivamogga
Ph: 08182-222943 **Email ID:** spdivision@gmail.com

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two-cover system) (Through KPP portal)

IFT No. 08/2026-27 **Date: 22.04.2026**

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-4 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 and above register contractor can apply under head of account **5054-80-190-0-01-132-KRDCL Repairs & Rehabilitation of Bridges** for work of **Repair/ Rehabilitation work of Bhadra River Bridge at ch 165.75 km on SH-65, Malpe Molakalmuru Road in Bhadravathi Taluk. (Indent No. 33058) for Amount put to tender is Rs.156.63 Lakhs and EMD amount is Rs.2.35 Lakhs. Time allowed for completion of work is 11 Months including Monsoon.** The tenderers may submit tenders through KPP-portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz., **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Section-2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP-Portal from **22.04.2026 to 29.04.2026**, Last date for Receipt of Tender is on **29.04.2026 at 17.00 PM.** The Technical bid will be opened on **30.04.2026 at 05.30 PM onwards** and Financial bid will be opened after **01.05.2026 Onwards.** If there any changes in publication, it will be publishing through KPP-Portal only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Public Works Department,
Special Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/SMG/No. 114-04/ Zenkar/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮುದ್ದೇಬಿಹಾಳ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ: 08356-220876,
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.muddebihaltown.mrc.gov.in
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_muddebihal@yahoo.co.in
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಪುಸಮು/ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ/ವಿಶೇಷ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025-26
ದಿನಾಂಕ:22.04.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೇ, ಎಸ್. ಎಫ್. ಸಿ ವಿಶೇಷ ಅನುದಾನ 2024-25 ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಕಾಣಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೆತ್ತಿಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರವಾರುಗಳನ್ನು ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: **DMA/2026-27/IND6188**

01. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಠೇವಣಿಯನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.05.2026 (ಸಂಜೆ 17.00 ರವರೆಗೆ)

02. ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆಗೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.05.2026 (ಸಂಜೆ 17-15 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ)

03. ಕೆಲಸದ ಅವಧಿ: ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ.

04. ಫಾರಂ ಬೆಲೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ- ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮುದ್ದೇಬಿಹಾಳ ಹಾಗೂ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in & www.muddebihaltown.mrc.gov.in and any changes in tender Addendum or corrigendum can be published in kpp portal only will not publish in newspapers.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಮುದ್ದೇಬಿಹಾಳ

ಸಹಿ/-
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಮುದ್ದೇಬಿಹಾಳ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/55/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/INFR/OTH/32/2026-ADMN/291821 Date: 24.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

Short term Tenders have been invited on 24.04.2026 for **Supply of Sports Items to Residential Schools/Colleges functioning under the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society across Karnataka,** through e-Portal vide Indent No. **KREIS/2026-27/IND0094** and the last date for receipt of tenders is **08.05.2026.** The details may be viewed in the **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** website.

Sd/- Joint Director (Admin)
and Tender Inviting Authority, KREIS

DIPR/CP/YC/357/2026-27

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tenders from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned works.

Construction of Minority Welfare Department Morarji Desai Residential School/PU College.

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	Malli Village, Yadrami Taluk and Srinivas Saradagi Village, Kalaburagi Taluk, Kalaburagi District, (phase-I) **Work Indent No.**: KHB/2026-27/BD/WORK_ INDENT 752 & IFT No.19/2026-27 Date: 23.04.2026. **Amount put to tender:** Rs.24,31,86,303/-.
2	Chikanshihosura Village, Hangal Taluk, Haveri District, (phase-I) **Work Indent No.**: KHB/2026-27/BD/WORK_ INDENT 753 & IFT No.20/2026-27 Date: 23.04.2026 **Amount put to tender:** Rs.12,17,09,665/-
3	Kondajje Village, Davanagere Taluk, Davanagere District, under PMJVK Scheme PU College.(phase-II) **Work Indent No.**: KHB/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT 754 & IFT No.21/2026-27 Date: 23.04.2026. **Amount put to tender:**

Last date for submission of bid: 08.05.2026 upto 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/353/AKAR/2025-26

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, hitherto known as NIZAMUDDIN ABDUL LATEEF FAKIR S/o ABDUL LATEEF FAKIR residing at INGALGONDI, INGALAGONDI, PO: KAGINELLI, DIST: HAVERI, KARNATAKA-581110, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NIZAM AKHTAR MAKANDAR

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MANISH GIRI,** S/o G.V. Giri, age 19 years, R/at No. 36, Sidedahalli Main Road, 1st Cross, Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Chikkabanavara Post, Bengaluru-560 090 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MANISH GIRI** (old name) to **NIHAL JEEVAN .G** (new name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **NIHAL JEEVAN .G** (new name) for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 21-04-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **SUMITHRA .N** at Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that :
My Client, Sri. Venkatagiriyappa, S/o Late Chikkabbaiah, aged about 60 years, residing at Doddabanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, my client is the absolute owner in lawful possession of the immovable property bearing
It has come to my Client knowledge that a document styled as: Irrevocable General Power of Attorney dated 22.11.2010, Registered as Document No. 0246/2010-11, allegedly executed in favour of M/s NSB Real Estates Pvt. Ltd., is being falsely relied upon by unknown persons. My Client never executed the above said GPA, never received any consideration, including ₹10,00,000/-, never had any transaction or dealing with the said entity, time of the alleged GPA, I had no title or authority over the property.
All persons, banks, financial institutions, developers, or any third parties are hereby cautioned : • Not to enter into any transaction • Not to purchase / acquire / deal • Not to rely on the above said GPA, in respect of the Schedule Property.
Any person dealing with the property based on the said GPA shall be doing so : • At their own risk • Without notice to me • Liable for civil and criminal action.
If any person/entity has any claim, right, title, or interest over the Schedule Property, they are hereby required to : Submit their claim with supporting documents within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice ; failing which, it shall be deemed that no such claim exists, and all claims, if any, shall be treated as waived.
Land in Sy.No. 128, measuring 15 guntas, Situated at Kumbena Agrahara Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru-560049.
East by : Property belongs to Muniyappa, **West by :** Kaluve, **North by :** Kaluve, **South by :** Doddabanahalli Village Border.
PLN & Associates
No.36, 2nd Cross, 5th Main, Kaveri Nagar, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural-562114. Ph. : 9886022730

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, hitherto known as KAVYA RAJU S/o KUNNASIDDANAYKA residing at GUNDLUPETE TALUKU BOMMALAPURA CHAMRAJANAGAR KARNATAKA - 571111, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SIDDESHA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **BHAVANI GIRI,** W/o G.V. Giri, age 35 years, R/at No. 36, Sidedahalli Main Road, 1st Cross, Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Chikkabanavara Post, Bengaluru-560 090 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **BHAVANI GIRI** (old name) to **RISHIKA BANVI .C** (new name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **RISHIKA BANVI .C** (new name) for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 21-04-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **SUMITHRA .N** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHAIKH LUZAINA GHULAM SHABIR,** W/o Wali Ahmed Irfan, age 46 years, R/at Flat No. 202, White Orchid, 9th Cross, Bhuvaneshwarinagar, R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru do hereby declare that my correct name is **SHAIKH LUZAINA GHULAM SHABIR,** but in my Aadhar Card my name is wrongly mentioned as **LUZAINA GHULAM SHABIR** instead of **SHAIKH LUZAINA GHULAM SHABIR,** vide affidavit dated 21-04-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. DAYANANDA** at Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Mrs. A. LYDIA @ LYDIA JOSEPH,** Aged about 65 years, W/o. Late. B. Joseph, Residing at : No.10, Tank Bund Road, Kanakadasa Layout, Lingarajapuram, St. Thomas Town Post, Bangalore - 560 084, who was owner of below mentioned property and she was having Original GPA dated 05.05.1984 and the original Sale Deed dated 01.12.2000, document bearing No.10266-2000-01 registered in the office of Sub-registrar, Bangalore north taluk in respect of property bearing No.28, E-PID No.2416790911, situated at, KSFC Layout, Lingarajapuram Main Road, BBMP Ward No.49, Bengaluru (Earlier Site No.28, Assessment No.80, Khatha No.4324, Kacharakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk), measuring EAST to WEST : 33 Feet and NORTH to SOUTH : 20 Feet, totally measuring 660 Square Feet, and the aforesaid Original Documents have been lost/misplaced while house shifting and she has made best efforts in tracing the same, but efforts were in vain, Further she lodged a police complaint in this regarding on 25.03.2026, if anyone found the aforesaid original document, kindly contact within 7 days from the date this publication at the office address given below.
MAKBUL PASHA. M.D,
Lex et,
Advocate and consultant,
No.80, 1st Floor, Queens Road, Opp: to St.Mary's Public School, Bengaluru -560052. Ph-8861810750

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BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

BESCOM invites tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for **Procurement of 250 kVA, Star 2 (5 Star) Distribution Transformer** vide Enquiry No.: **BESCOM/2026-27/IND0240 (Lot-1), BESCOM/2026-27/IND0241 (Lot-2), BESCOM/2026-27/IND0242 (Lot-3) and BESCOM/2026-27/IND0243 (Lot-4).**

Bid Documents available: 28.04.2026 onwards. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 29.05.2026, 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 30.05.2026, 17:15 Hrs. The Tender can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with Karnataka Public Procurement Portal help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com

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Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele.,),
Procurement, BESCOM

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No. BDA/2026-27/SE0100 Date: 24.04.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

On behalf of the Commissioner, BDA, The Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division, BDA invites Lumpsum Tender in single cover system for **Providing Consultancy Services for Preparing Award Sketches of individual survey numbers (inclusive of Subdivided land) for Bangalore Business Corrior (PRR-1) From Tumakuru Road to Hosur Road, Bengaluru.** Approx.Cost put to tenders: **Rs. 26.55 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs.0.55 Lakhs.** Time: **3 Months. Tender Process Schedule: (1)** Last date and time for receipt of Tender: **04.05.2026, 16.30 hrs. (2)** Last date and time of opening Technical bid: **07.05.2026, 16.30 hrs.**

Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Infrastructure Division of BDA during office hours or contact e-Proc help desk: 080-46010000/68948777

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division, BDA, Bengaluru

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Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation

Request For Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Agency for supply of Human Resources at various veterinary hospitals under Veterinary Department of Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation

Tender No. 01/2026-27

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) hereby invites 'Selection of Agency for supply of Human Resources at various veterinary hospitals under Veterinary Department of Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation'. Bidders are advised to study this RFP document carefully before submitting their proposals in response to this RFP Notice. Submission of a proposal in response to this notice shall be deemed to have been carried out after careful study and examination of this document with full understanding of its terms, conditions, and implications.

Interested Bidders are requested to download the RFP document published on **eProcurement System Government of Maharashtra** from 25/04/2026. The last date for bid submission 07/05/2026 by 3:00 PM. The downloaded bidding document shall be considered valid for participation in the electronic bidding process (e-Tendering) subject to the payment of RFP Fee. For any type of clarifications, Bidders can visit www.mahatenders.gov.in or contact help desk contact no. 0120-4001 462, 0120-4001 002, 0120-4001 005, 0120-6277 787, **Email: support-eproc@nic.in**

Name of Work	Tender Fees (Rs) (Non-Refundable)	EMD (Rs)
Selection of Agency for supply of Human Resources at various veterinary hospitals under Veterinary Department of Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation	Rs. 66,310 (Sixty-Six Thousand Three Hundred and Ten Rupees Only)	Rs 10,76,000 (Ten Lakh and Seventy-Six Thousand Rupees Only)

Commissioner, PCMC reserves the rights to reject any or all applications without assigning any reasons thereof. In this regard his decision will be final and legally binding on all the Bidders.

Advt. No.: [2026-27/26]
Out No. pavai/02/kavi/118/2026
Date: 24/04/2026

Sd/-
Commissioner
Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation
Pimpri - 411 018

India seeks to salvage pride in fourth T20I

The visiting team eyes to address the shortcomings after three consecutive defeats and a series loss; it is time for Smriti, Jemimah and Richa to step up and fire in unison

INDIA IN SA

Press Trust of India
JOHANNESBURG

The series is lost, but India still has a lot to play for in the fourth Women's T20I against South Africa here on Saturday, including salvaging pride, restoring rhythm, and setting the tone for what lies ahead in the World Cup year.

Host South Africa has already taken an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match rubber and is aiming for a clean sweep to continue the unbeaten streak at home, even as the Indians seek to bring to an end a series of disappointing performances despite possessing a team that is full of quality players, including few superstars of the modern women's game.

With the T20 World Cup scheduled later this year in England, the Indians will not be low on motivation as they look to plug the gaps heading into the mega event, less than a year after winning their maiden ICC title in the form of the ODI World Cup.

Ready to unleash: Opener Smriti will be keen to run up big scores as the Indians look to make amends in the remainder of the series. X@BCCIWOMEN

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who believes that the reverses in last few days will allow the team management sufficient time to address the shortcomings and "come back strong" for the T20 World Cup in June, will be expecting to see a more complete performance on Saturday, especially from a middle-order that has struggled to convert starts into match-defining contributions.

It is time for solid performers like Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues and Richa Ghosh to fire in unison. The Indian bowling, too, has lacked bite at crucial junctures during the series so far. While seasoned all-rounders like Deepti Sharma have offered control, India has often allowed momentum to slip during the middle-overs – something South Africa have capitalised on effectively.

The teams (from): South Africa: Laura Wolvaardt (Capt.), Anneke Bosch, Kayla Reyneke, Nadine de Klerk, Annerie Dercksen, Sune Luus, Eliz-Mari Marx, Chloe Tryon, Tazmin Brits, Sinalo Jafta, Tebogo Macheke, Ayanda Hlubi, Ayabonga Khaka, Nonkululeko Mlaba, and Tumi Sekhukhune.

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Bharti Fulmali, Anushka Sharma, Deepti Sharma, Arundhati Reddy, Shree Charani, Kashvee Gautam, Richa Ghosh, Uma Chetry, Renuka Singh Thakur, Kranti Gaud, and Shreyanka Patil.

Match starts at 9.30 p.m. IST.

Solid support: Muzumdar is confident that Deepti has the talent and skill to turn it around. FILE PHOTO: X@BCCIWOMEN

Muzumdar backs Deepti to come good

Press Trust of India
JOHANNESBURG

Indian women's team head coach Amol Muzumdar on Saturday backed veteran all-rounder Deepti Sharma to come good but admitted that her lean patch is a bit of a "concern".

Indian team under Harmanpreet Kaur has already surrendered the five-match WT20I series to South Africa after losing three games on the trot. Deepti's poor returns with the ball have only added to the visiting side's woes. The 28-year-old off-spinner is yet to pick up a wicket in the series.

Laura Wolvaardt and Sune Luus took Deepti to the cleaners in the third T20I as she went for 46 runs from her 3.3 overs.

In fact Deepti's contribution for India in her last 10 games (across all three formats) is a meagre 51 runs and she has taken only seven wickets in these games.

"Look, I don't want to beat around the bush, I just want to say that yeah, it's a bit of a concern as far as Deepti is concerned," Muzumdar said ahead of Saturday's fourth T20I.

"For all champion players are, form is, you know, temporary, class is permanent. It's a cliche, but she's a class player, there's no doubt about it. We have seen it in the World Cup, in bigger tournaments, in pressure situations, she has stood up for India," Muzumdar came to her defence.

"I think it's just a matter of time when she hits form, and I and the entire country would be hoping it starts from tomorrow (Saturday). She's one of the pillars of Indian women's cricket at the moment," he added.

Nipam shatters National women's junior 100m record

Sports Bureau

Uttar Pradesh's Nipam broke the National women's junior 100m record in the 24th under-20 Federation athletics competition at Tumakuru on Friday. Nipam's 11.53s run eclipsed the previous best set by Abhinaya Rajarajan (11.54s) last year. In the men's 100m, Reliance's Abhay Singh took the gold and achieved a new meet record of 10.41s. Abhay erased Gurindervir Singh's mark of 10.47s set in 2018.

The results:
Winners: Men: 100m: Abhay Singh (Reliance), 10.41s.
5,000m: Dinesh (UP), 14:36.50s.

Nipam.

Women: 100m: Nipam (UP), 11.53s (NR, Old NR: Abhinaya Rajarajan, 11.54s, 2025).
5,000m: Muskan (Har), 16:42.88s.
Discus: K. Amanat (Pun), 52.27m;
Pole vault: B. Sowndharya (TN), 3.60m.

BFC will aim to make most of home game against Mumbai City

ISL

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

With title aspirations on the line, Bengaluru FC (BFC) and Mumbai City FC face off in a crucial Indian Super League (ISL) encounter at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday.

For both teams, a win will go a long way in the race to capture the big prize. With four games to go, BFC (15 points) is five points adrift of leader Mohun Bagan Super Giant, while Mumbai City trails by two.

BFC will look to make the most of its last home fixture.

For Pep Munoz, whose tenure as BFC head coach has begun with a loss and a draw, Saturday's (April 25) game feels like a final.

"We are still in the title race. If we have a good result tomorrow, we will be right up there. Tomorrow is a final. The players and supporters also know that this is the final," Munoz said here on Friday.

Like BFC, Mumbai City enters the field after a dip in form. The visitor's four game unbeaten streak came to an end last week, when it suffered a 0-2 loss to FC Goa.

"Mumbai is a team that is made to win the league. But we have a good squad too. It's our last game at home and we want to do our best," Munoz said.

BFC head coach Munoz during a training session.

An impressive field gears up for TCS World 10K Bengaluru

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Uganda's Harbert Kibet leads an impressive men's field in the 18th edition of the TCS World 10K Bengaluru, which will be held here on Sunday.

Kibet is among the five runners with a personal best under 27 minutes. This puts the men's course record - 27:38s, set by Nicholas Kipkorir Kimeli - under threat.

Ready, set, go! International elite athletes pose for a picture during a press conference. J. ALLEN EGENUSE

The 20-year-old Kibet claimed victory in his maiden 10K run at the 10K Facsa Castellon in February. His 26:39s timing made him the fifth fastest 10K runner in history.

This sport comes naturally to Kibet.

"When I was young, I ran 10 kilometres daily to school," Kibet said here on Friday.

Burundi's Rodrigue Kwizera and Ethiopia's Gemechu Dida - both boast of an impressive personal best of 26:54s - will give Kibet a run for his money.

Kwizera, who finished second in the 2023 TCS World 10K Bengaluru, hopes to erase his personal best on Sunday.

The World 10K women's run features an upcoming talent in 20-year-old Brenda Jepchirchir.

The Kenyan is on a hot streak, having won 10K titles in Valencia and Gqeberha this year. Brenda will be joined by Sarah Chelangat, who dominated from start to finish in the previous edition of this run.

This year, Sarah set a Ugandan half marathon National record at the HOKA Semi de Paris, clocking 1:06:31s.